

King leaves Mayo Clinic in good health

AMMAN (Petra) — Medical checkups conducted on His Majesty King Hussein at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Tuesday, had proven that His Majesty is in good health, the King's private physician Samir Farraj said Tuesday. Dr. Farraj said the post-operative tests His Majesty underwent showed that there is no trace of the ailment which caused King Hussein to undergo a cancer surgery at the clinic in August 1992. Dr. Farraj said the King, who has already left the medical centre, will from now on undergo routine tests once a year, instead of the bi-annual tests. King Hussein is scheduled to hold talks with American President Bill Clinton during his stay in the U.S.

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Orient House faces seizure

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli-run Jerusalem municipality is considering seizing the bank accounts of the Palestinian headquarters in the Holy City over \$300,000 in back taxes, Israel Radio reported Tuesday.

The municipal authorities announced in March they were checking the legal possibilities of evicting the Palestinians from the building in East Jerusalem known as Orient House, but nothing has been done. The radio report followed a rumour between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) after Chairman Yasser Arafat called in May for a holy war to liberate Jerusalem from Jewish rule.

Aden residents, suffering water, power and medical shortages, said battles that had raged on Monday on battlefronts around the southern stronghold eased after midnight.

They said they could only hear sporadic shelling on Tuesday.

"It is relatively less intense," said a southern security official.

The southern defence ministry said 10 civilians, including five members of the same family, were killed by shelling on Monday in Aden, where northern forces are fighting to crush a bid by the south to secede from a united Yemen formed in 1990.

Aden was declared capital of the Democratic Republic of Yemen when the south seceded on May 21.

In Abu Dhabi, U.N. envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim said "the ball is starting to roll" in his mission to try to implement a U.N. ceasefire call issued on June 1.

He said northern Yemen had accepted suggestions by its rivals in the south to involve neutral foreigners in a "military committee" that

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Ibrahimi sees progress in Yemeni mediation

Sanaa accepts ceasefire

THE GOVERNMENT in Sanaa on Tuesday accepted a U.N. compromise plan to establish a ceasefire in Yemen's civil war, a northern official said.

U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Ibrahim has proposed that a ceasefire be supervised by a joint Yemeni committee backed by international observers, while Sanaa had previously ruled out a foreign role.

"The government informed Mr. Ibrahim of its acceptance of the plan this evening," the official said.

A military committee comprising Yemenis as well as French and American military attaches and Jordanian and Omani representatives had tried before the war broke out on May 4 to redeploy rival troops and ease tension between them.

Mr. Ibrahim held talks on Tuesday with United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan on Yemen. He was due to visit Qatar later on Tuesday then Jordan.

He is expected to brief (Continued on page 9)

there is something there," he added.

The new northern position is the first reported breakthrough in international and Arab efforts to stop the fighting and start dialogue in Yemen.

In meeting in Sanaa last week, Mr. Saleh told Mr. Ibrahim the north would only talk to the south if it abandoned its declaration of secession. He also ruled out dialogue with Mr. Beidh himself.

Sanaa had last week suggested that a military committee of northern and southern Yemeni tribes meet on a frontline near Aden to try to enforce a ceasefire. The south rejected that and suggested a foreign role, which Sanaa turned down.

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He is expected to brief (Continued on page 9)

would try to enforce the ceasefire.

He said he was told of the north's decision early on Tuesday after he arrived in Abu Dhabi from talks with southern Yemeni leader Ali Saleh Al Beidh in the city of Mukalla in eastern Yemen.

He had earlier met northern President Ali Abdullah Saleh in the capital Sanaa.

"I think the interesting development is that the north accepts the idea of Yemenis and foreigners so I think that

Rabin links prisoners' fate to that of 'collaborators'

JERICHO, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned Tuesday that Israel would link further releases of Palestinian prisoners to the treatment of Palestinian collaborators receive from the new authority.

"The hunting down of collaborators is contrary to the (autonomy) agreement and we will draw the necessary conclusions for everything which is linked to the question of prisoners," Mr. Rabin said during a visit to Vered Jericho, a Jewish settlement overlooking the self-rule enclave of Jericho.

The Palestinian police in Gaza have arrested about 30 Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israel.

Frei Abu Middan, the "minister" for justice in the Palestinian authority, said those arrested had continued to collaborate with Israel following the Sept. 13 autonomy

agreement. They would be tried by a military court, he said, in apparent contradiction to the self-rule accords.

Mr. Middan warned, "collaborators who participated in the murder of other Palestinians could be sentenced to death under article 36 of the (Egyptian) penal code in force before the 1967 occupation."

The article refers to anyone, not just collaborators, who took part in or was accomplice to murder.

Islamic fundamentalists temporarily called off the killing of suspected collaborators on May 29 — after hanging two men — to give the new police force time to show it could handle the issue.

The police on Monday took families of murdered collaborators not to seek revenge on the killers, some 300 of whom have recently been uncovered.

(Continued on page 6)

Self-rule brings optimism

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians have recovered their optimism following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from most of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, according to an opinion poll published Tuesday.

The Centre for Palestine Research and Studies found that 66.4 per cent were optimistic or relatively optimistic about the future following the initial implementation of self-rule to have their voice heard.

A senior PLO official said Monday the PLO is considering whether to hold a referendum to allow opponents of self-rule to have their voice heard.

Saeb Erakat, who holds the portfolio of minister of local government in the Palestinian self-rule authority, said he had raised the issue of a referendum as a response to those opposed to the autonomy agreement with Israel.

"We are considering a referendum," Dr. Erakat said without specifying what question the electorate would be asked. "We have a lot of Palestinians who are not happy with autonomy. We want them to come and say why, to speak."

"But, we don't want anyone to say that it will replace elections."

Elections are due to be held on Oct. 15 for a 100-

member Palestinian legislative council and local councils.

Dr. Erakat said preparations were underway to draft the electoral system by the end of June, and local government laws would be in place by mid-July.

A referendum of the two million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would not be easy, he acknowledged, notably as self-rule in the West Bank is limited to Jericho.

"We don't know if we will have a referendum," he said. "Can we afford the costs? Can we provide the logistics? How to do it in the West Bank?"

Israel has ordered Palestinians in the Jericho self-rule area to stop planning a small airport that Mr. Yasser Arafat had been planning to use, a PLO official said on Tuesday.

"They told us to stop it because there is no final settlement over the land in terms of whether it falls inside or outside the self-rule area," the PLO official, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters in Amman.

(Continued on page 9)

Majali heads for U.S. to join King

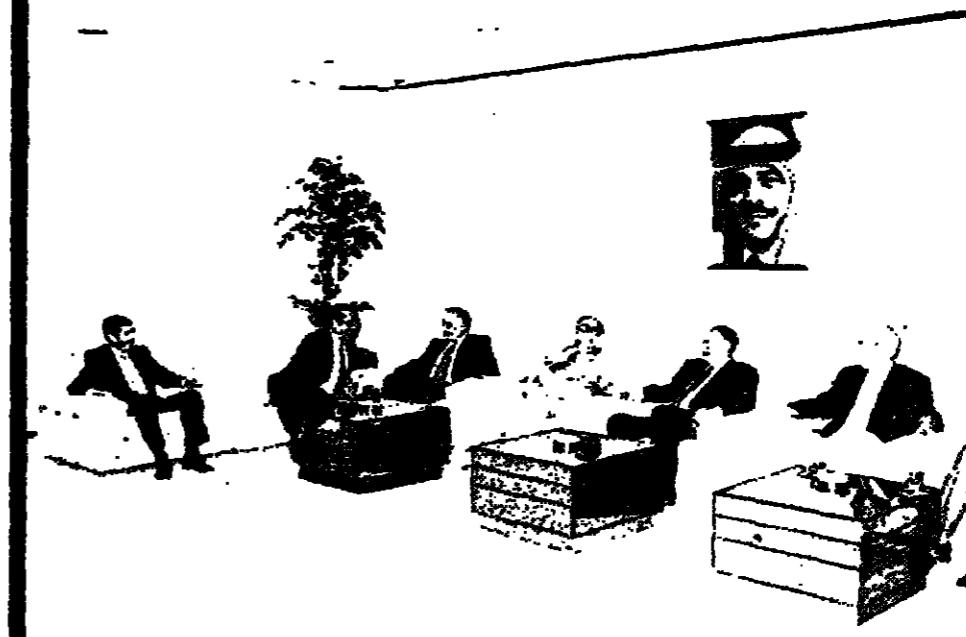
AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali left for the United States on Tuesday to join His Majesty King Hussein in meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton and senior administration officials on the Middle East peace process and American-Jordanian relations.

The King is already in the U.S. undergoing medical check-ups at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota since early Monday, reports said.

The King arrived at the clinic Sunday night from London.

The check-ups are expected to be the last in a six-month series the King underwent after his successful surgery at the Mayo Clinic in August 1992, from now on, it is expected that the check-ups will be annual. The date for the King's White House meeting with Mr. Clinton was not immediately known. Up-

(Continued on page 9)



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali is seen off upon his departure for the U.S. on Tuesday by Deputy Prime Minister Thounan Hindawi and other members of the Cabinet (Petra photo)

Alarm mounts over Korean crisis

SEOUL (Agencies) — World leaders united in expressing alarm on Tuesday at North Korea's decision to quit the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency but there were signs of disagreement about the next move in the crisis.

U.S. President Bill Clinton voiced deep concern, Russian President Boris Yeltsin called the move "very serious" and Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said the situation was grave.

North Korea, believed by the United States and its allies to be building nuclear weapons in defiance of the safeguards pact it signed, announced on Monday it was pulling out of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) immediately.

Until an agreed solution is found the Palestinian side undertakes not to prosecute these Palestinians or to harm them in any way."

Some 5,000 Palestinians are known to have collaborated with Israel, according to the Israeli human rights group B'tselem which believes many more have never been uncovered.

The North called the agency move a prelude to U.N. sanctions, adding: "We strongly reaffirm our position that U.N. 'sanctions' will be regarded immediately as a declaration of war."

It said it would no longer permit IAEA staff into the country but gave no indication whether it would tell two inspectors who are still there to leave.

The North did not announce withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, as it had threatened to do since March of last year. In Vienna, the IAEA said this meant it was still legally bound to accept inspections of its nuclear plants.

"The North Korean announcement appeared to be aimed at intimidating the world," said a senior aide to South Korean President Kim Young-Sam.

North Korea asked Japan not to join in the possible sanctions.

A letter containing the request to Japan was adopted by a mass rally held Tuesday in Pyongyang, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

"It is a good option for the Japanese authorities not to join the international reactionaries in their reckless moves to take sanctions against the DPRK (North Korea) in a bid to stifle it," the letter said.

The tribal killing there since April may have wiped out as many as 500,000 people, almost all civilians.

The summit's second day began with two hours of private talks between the presidents of Rwanda's neighbours, Zaire, Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania.

Kenya's vice-president, heading his country's delegation to the Tunis summit, took part.

They issued no statement but were due to meet again in the afternoon aiming to agree a resolution calling for a cease-

fire.

Plenary talks on Rwanda were delayed by hours of long prepared speeches by presidents.

Mr. Mandela, the towering

Lebanon says no probe into suspect's Pan Am claim

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon on Tuesday dismissed a claim attributed to a Palestinian activist that he had placed the bomb which exploded on a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988.

Yousef Shaban "never said that he had placed the bomb in the Pan Am plane" that killed 270 people, state prosecutor Munif Oweidat said.

"But he said that under torture he was ready to confess to anything, even the Lockerbie bombing, if asked to," Oweidat said, noting Shaban's comments were not logged in court records because they were not connected to his trial.

The state prosecutor charges that statements attributed to Shaban on Monday were "deformed on purpose to embarrass (Lebanese) justice," and he ruled out any investigation into the claim.

Shaban, according to the state-run news agency ANI, told a court here that he was responsible for bombing the plane.

The agency last Friday suspended technical aid to the North after it refused access to IAEA inspectors seeking evidence of a secret nuclear bomb.

The agency said it would not longer permit IAEA staff into the country but gave no indication whether it would tell two inspectors who are still there to leave.

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Petra Bank liquidators push drive to collect successful court claims

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A public notice served on a defunct London-based firm to pay JD 3.76 million to a committee liquidating Petra Bank is only a legal requirement with little prospect for collecting the money, given the fact that the company has "disappeared," a key official said on Tuesday.

Bassem Attari, a senior member of the government-appointed committee liquidating Petra Bank, once Jordan's second-largest commercial bank, said the committee had rung up for more than JD 17 million dinars in cases it won against Ahmad Chalabi and members of his family.

Petra Bank ran into serious trouble in 1989, prompting the government's Economic Security Committee to take it over. Dr. Chalabi, an Iraqi who founded and ran the bank as what many experts describe as a one-man operation, fled the country. So did all other members of his family and close associates.

The government pumped in more than JD 200 million to protect depositors' interest and managed the institution until April 1990, when it ordered the bank liquidated.

Dr. Chalabi and 15 others — mostly Chalabi family members — were tried in absentia and found guilty of embezzling the bank's funds and speculating in the national currency. They were sentenced to prison terms and heavy fines.

The liquidation committee released an advertisement in the local media on Tuesday serving notice on SCF Company of London to pay an outstanding due of JD 3.7

million.

"We hereby give you final warning to settle (the amount) within 30 days (from May 31, 1994). Otherwise we shall regrettably take all necessary legal procedures to collect the rights of Petra Bank," it said.

Mr. Attari told the Jordan Times that the committee had found that the SCF Company was "under the full control" of Ahmad Chalabi before it "disappeared" a few days after Petra Bank was ordered liquidated.

"Our London lawyers advised us that (SCF Company) had no offices, no address and no telephone number," said Mr. Attari, adding that the firm was operated by Hussein Chalabi, a cousin of Ahmad Chalabi.

Mr. Attari said the committee had a total of 37 cases against Dr. Chalabi and his family members, relatives and close associates who figured high in the spurious operations that led to the collapse of Petra Bank.

He said the committee had won 13 cases. "Judgements in other cases are not final yet," he said.

Dr. Chalabi is believed to be living in London, from where he is playing out the self-assumed role of an Iraqi dissident opposed to the government of President Saddam Hussein.

He is on the 17-member leadership council of the Iraqi National Congress and is believed to be the main man behind the regular issuance of press releases and statements on behalf of the congress.

Other members of the Chalabi family are scattered around the world. Some are believed to be living in Europe, some in the Far East



Ahmad Chalabi

and others in the United States.

Earlier reports said the Jordanian government had approached the Paris-based International Police Organisation (Interpol) seeking the arrest and extradition of the convicts in the Petra Bank case. But, according to experts in international law, extradition is not possible without the consent of the host government and it was almost impossible to get any of the Chalabi extradited based on the ruling of the State Security Court, a military tribunal.

Those two firms have also gone bust, with no legal trace of its former operatives.

The report of the investigating committee has also been introduced as part of other civil lawsuits filed by the liquidation committee.

Asked how the committee intended to collect its claims, given that none of the defendants are present in Jordan and their whereabouts are "unknown" in most cases, Mr. Attari said: "We have our own means and ways, but prefer not to make any public comment on the issue."

tribunal found that the Iraqi banker had embezzled from Petra Bank.

Ali Sarraf, who headed the foreign exchange operations of Petra Bank, was also given a similar jail sentence and others were handed down stiff jail terms. All of them were tried in absentia.

The liquidating committee's successful claim against SCF Company was the sole court ruling against that particular firm among the many European and Middle East-based companies which operated under the direct or indirect control of Dr. Chalabi.

Mr. Attari, who served as general manager of Petra Bank between the time it was taken over by the government and ordered liquidated, said that the committee left the door open for other lawsuits as and if warranted.

Two Geneva-based banking institutions with extensive operations in Lebanon were the leading "front companies" for Dr. Chalabi, according to the findings of an inquiry committee of experts whose report was one of the key elements in the trial of Dr. Chalabi and others by the State Security Court more than two years ago.

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Shaath settles in Gaza, says democracy a must

RAFAH (Agencies) — Nabil Shaath, the chief Palestinian autonomy negotiator, entered the Gaza Strip on Tuesday after spending almost the whole of his life in exile.

A delegation of senior Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials turned out to greet Mr. Shaath, who will take up the post of "minister" for cooperation and planning in the new Palestinian self-rule authority.

PLO official said the 55-year-old businessman, who owns a computer software company, would settle in Gaza and prepare for the arrival of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who is expected late this month or in early July.

Dr. Shaath was chauffeured from Cairo in a black Peugeot 505.

He paid a 24-hour visit to Gaza City on May 19-20, bringing thousands of dollars to pay the New Palestinian police force.

The officials who met him on the Israeli side of the Rafah border terminal on Tuesday said he would be carrying large amounts of money again.

He was accompanied by the PLO's representative in Cairo, Zuhdi Al Kadra, who was not expected to stay long on the Strip, as well as two of his three children.

The Shaaths would live temporarily in a new seafront

hotel in Gaza Strip.

Born in 1938 of a Palestinian father and a Lebanese mother in Safed, Galilee, his family left for Egypt at the age of 10 when Israel was created in 1948.

He studied in Alexandria before leaving for the United States in 1959 where he became president of the Arab Students' Organisation. In 1965 he returned to Egypt and took up an active role in political life.

The 1967 Middle East war prompted Dr. Shaath to renew links with the Palestinian movement and within two years he left for Beirut.

It was while teaching at the American University of Beirut that he became a leading spokesman for Fateh, Mr. Arafat's mainstream PLO faction.

However, differences with the PLO leadership at the start of the civil war saw him return to Egypt in 1976.

During the 1982 invasion of Lebanon by Israel, Dr. Shaath defended the Palestinian cause in Europe and the United States.

A widower, Dr. Shaath describes himself as a born optimist and prides himself on never having been on the PLO payroll.

Dr. Shaath said the benefits of the independent Palestinian authority were coming through: The first identity cards were issued a few days ago, passports were

being printed and free passage between Gaza and Jericho would start next week, with Palestinian officers on the borders.

He said the Palestinian embassy in Cairo would start issuing visas to visitors to Gaza and Jericho within two weeks.

Dr. Shaath said negotiations between the PLO and Israel would resume as soon as possible to spread the Palestinian authority over the West Bank, to complete business in Gaza and Jericho and to proceed with the committee for the return of Palestinians displaced since 1967.

"My country will never be a suitcase," Dr. Shaath said on his departure from Cairo, borrowing a verse from Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish that has become a slogan for exiled Palestinians.

"We are going back for good," said Dr. Shaath, visibly moved.

"But I feel I will always be a part of Egypt and that Egypt will always be in my heart," said Dr. Shaath, noting his wife was an Egyptian and his sons had also married Egyptians.

He bade farewell to the journalists who had bidden him throughout the complicated autonomy negotiations between the PLO and Israel.

"It is a very important day in my life. I am full of hope," Dr. Shaath told a news conference before leaving Cairo. "I hope we will be just, fair, democratic leaders and builders and I hope that this will get us protection from the people themselves, by the people themselves," he said.

He was accompanied by



Nabil Shaath

Responding to Palestinian opposition group's fears that Mr. Arafat would run the new self-rule areas autocratically, he said democracy was a must. He hoped Mr. Arafat would be there "within the next 10 days."

"I assure you of my commitment and that of our leadership to democracy. If some of our leaders close up and decide they want to make Lilliputian dictatorship it will mean the end of Palestine vis-a-vis its people and the world," he said.

"I am going home with a feeling that the donors are behind us, that the world is behind us," he said.

Dr. Shaath played down threats by the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements against Palestinian officials for signing a peace agreement with Israel.

"I hope we will be just, fair, democratic leaders and builders and I hope that this will get us protection from the people themselves, by the people themselves," he said.

The announcement was made at UNESCO's preparatory meeting in Bonn, Germany, for the conference on the launching of the U.N.-sponsored network.

Slovenia opens consulate in Amman

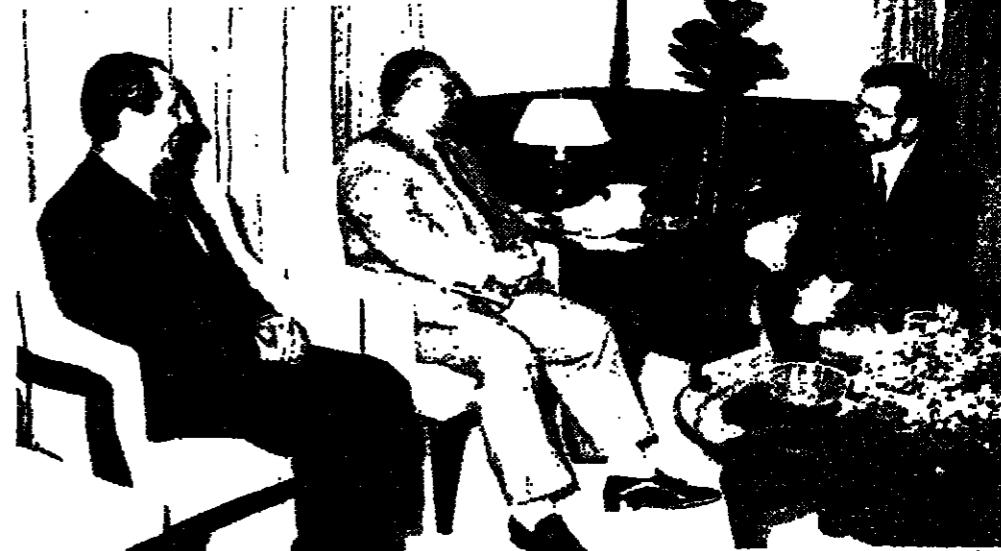
By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister Lojze Peterle Tuesday opened a consulate for Slovenia in Amman and held a reception at the Amman Marriott Hotel to celebrate the occasion. Issa Murad, honorary consul of Slovenia in Jordan told the Jordan Times that the move would pave the ground for raising the level of diplomatic representation to the embassy level at a later stage.

Mr. Peterle, who arrived Tuesday in Amman met Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan to discuss relations and prospects for economic, scientific and trade relations.

Mr. Peterle was quoted by the Jordan News Agency Petra, as saying that his country appreciates Jordan's constructive and active role in the Middle East peace process.

Slovenia is concerned with promoting relations with Jordan because the country was



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday meets with visiting Slovenian Deputy Prime Minister Lojze Peterle who arrived at the head of a delegation for talks on promoting trade and economic cooperation (Petra photo)

one of the first to recognise Slovenia following the break up of former Yugoslavia, said Mr. Peterle who is accompanied by an official delegation.

Expressing his pleasure at visiting Jordan, Mr. Peterle said he hoped he would discuss with Industry and Trade

Minister Rima Khalaf prospects for economic and trade cooperation for the country for home Wednesday.

It is hoped that the consulate, located on Mecca Street, would soon be transformed into an embassy to further boost bilateral ties he

said.

Mr. Murad, as well as Mr. Al Hassan and Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayef Al Hadid, were among the Jordanian delegation to welcome Mr. Peterle and his delegation upon his arrival in Amman.

vice president of the operations control centre, and transferred Fathi Salem to the finance department to assume his new duties as assistant vice president for accounts.

Mr. Balqaz decided to attach Alia Gateway Hotel, the duty free shop, the K1 supply section training centre, Royal Tours, Alia Hospitality Services and the passengers' boutique to the investments department.

continued commitment to achieving further scientific knowledge and its strenuous endeavours to acquire the latest in the field of science and technology.

He added that Japanese assistance to Jordan aims generally at bolstering the socio-economic development process in the country.

Hani Mulki, secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology and RSS president, pointed to Jordanian-Japanese cooperation as playing a key role in developing Jordanian expertise and enhancing the country's role and its contribution to the field of science and technology.

Three long-term courses entitled "Senior Programmer" and three others entitled "System Engineering" have so far been held with the participation of 127 trainees

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national carrier on Tuesday announced major changes involving senior RJ staff.

Under the changes, made by RJ President and Chief Executive Officer Mahmoud Zeid Kilani was appointed advisor to the president.

Omar Zokash was named vice president of information systems.

Zuheir Zahran was named vice president of administration and procurement.

ments, and Musa Anz as vice-president of management control.

Ghassan Ali was named vice president of investments and transferred Fathi Salem to the finance department to assume his new duties as assistant vice president for accounts.

Samir Majali was named vice president of airport and in-flight services, and Ihsan Naghawi as assistant vice president of planning. Mr. Balqaz also named captain George Matta as assistant

Ceremony marks completion of RSS-JICA project

AMMAN (J.T.) — A ceremony was held Tuesday at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) marking the completion of the RSS Computer Technology Development and Training Centre Project which was established through cooperation between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), RSS and the Higher Council for Science and Technology (JCST), an RSS statement said.

The centre began last year to organise advanced training courses for Jordanian and Arab specialists and technicians.

Three long-term courses entitled "Senior Programmer" and three others entitled "System Engineering" have so far been held with the participation of 127 trainees

including several from Syria, Egypt, Bahrain, Oman, Yemen and Mauritania.

Attending Tuesday's ceremony which marked the formal handing over of the centre's operations to Jordan were Ikeda Yuji, the Japanese ambassador in Amman, the representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency in Amman, and several guests.

Mr. Yuji addressed the gathering saying that the project symbolises the close and long-lasting cooperation and friendship between Jordan and Japan. Praising RSS's technical and manpower capabilities, Mr. Yuji said that this stems from RSS's

continued commitment to achieving further scientific knowledge and its strenuous endeavours to acquire the latest in the field of science and technology.

He added that Japanese assistance to Jordan aims generally at bolstering the socio-economic development process in the country.

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In addition, she said, the network is designed to provide opportunities for dialogue, exchanging and sharing, thus enabling members to draw on a wide range of resources, information and experiences.

Furthermore, Ms. Murad said the form of inter-regional cooperation will make it possible to experiment with the "countless possibilities of cultural dissemination and distribution in the new global and Mediterranean context." It will test women's cultural

action in a specific environment, she added.

Moreover, Ms. Murad said, UNESCO will coordinate joint actions, facilitate contact among network members, help to identify possible sources of aid and funding, and compile and help to circulate information.

"UNESCO's ultimate objective is to see the network operate smoothly and be fully independent of the organisation," said Ms. Murad.

She urged all involved individuals and organisations to contact the Ministry of Education with proposals for discussion at future UNESCO meetings on this topic.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Nidal Dabieh 827195
Dr. Bassam Karadash 759200
Dr. Yahya Abdal Salam 736072
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shiekh 732056
Firas pharmaceutical 771912
Firas pharmacy 778336
Al Arees pharmaceutical 637055
Nairok pharmaceutical 623672
Al Salam pharmaceutical 636730
Yasoub pharmaceutical 644945

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1994 3

CDD rescues trapped youth

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After being trapped between rocks for more than four hours in steep valley, a 17-year-old youth Tuesday was rescued by a Civil Defence Department (CDD) team.

According to Captain Abdul Ra'ouf Ma'ayah, the CDD was notified at approximately 6 p.m. Monday evening that a youth was trapped in a valley in Al Skiemeh town near Baqaa.

Capt. Ma'ayah told the Jordan Times that the rescue operation began at about 8 p.m. and lasted till 3 a.m., the next day.

"It was a troublesome task because it was at night and it was difficult for the CDD

team to reach the area where the youth was trapped," Capt. Ma'ayah said.

He added that the rescue team used ropes to cross the 400-metre distance to reach the trapped boy.

"We were contacted by the police department who advised us to wait until next day to save the youth by helicopter, but we decided that we could go on using our equipment," he added.

The boy, Ashraf M.

Adwan, had gone hunting for birds with some of his friends in that area. While reaching for a bird's nest, he slipped between the rocks, the report said.

All nine injured in the brawl were listed in fair to good condition.

Police said they detained the rest pending further investigation into the case.

French gifts of music

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ageless songs, distinguished charm and genuine French spirit will be the gifts Adrienne will bring with her this week from France to entertain audience in Jordan.

The celebrated pianist, Roger Pouly, will accompany her graceful singing.

Opening the French week at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Adrienne will give two concerts; on Thursday and Friday. The musical event is presented by Air France and the French Cultural Centre in Amman.

Far from modern, ephemeral trends, ignoring pale imitations of Anglo-Saxon rock music that the French airwaves too often carry, Adrienne's songs belong to the admirable repertoire of stylish French music with themes that never die.

Her interpretation, on her last compact disc (CD), of standards like "Les feuilles mortes," "Que reste-t-il de nos amours" or "Syracuse" in addition to her own compositions, brings a fresh breeze of pure French poetry, perfectly channelled by her soft, weightless, well balanced voice.

Roger Pouly is a star by himself, having released several CDs of superb



Adrienne
"piano-bar" instrumental
music.
The Adrienne and Roger

Pouly duo is a living, musical demonstration of French savoir-faire.

Experts study projects to preserve Petra

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Petra, Jordan's main tourist attraction and most valuable archaeological site, is in need of protection and preservation if its magnificence is to survive,

according to participants in the panel discussion held at the Friends of Archaeology Centre (FOA) Monday evening.

Under the title "Is Petra endangered?" the panel, described by FOA President Rami Khoury as people who want to raise awareness of archaeology, talked about plans for preserving Petra and protecting it from the destructive elements of weather.

Abd Al Ilah Abu Ayyash, assistant of the secretary general of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, discussed the objectives and activities of the ministry's Petra Higher Committee

(PHC) saying that "it is high time for the government to start moving" in the direction of developing Petra as the "centre of a touristic circular movement in the country."

Dr. Abu Ayyash said that the development of Petra should go hand in hand with protecting it from national environmental threats. Saying that approximately 3,000 tourists visit the ancient city daily, a master plan to handle issues of infrastructure of hotels, roads and parking areas is being drawn by the government.

He also stressed the advantages and disadvantages of excavations, exploration as well as restoration of the rose-red city.

He said that many considerations have to be studied before embarking on any tourist attraction activities — mainly the preservation of Petra's cultural heritage.

Dr. Akashesh said that the HCST has been involved in documentation of Petra's monuments and assessing the damage of wind and water

erosion on them in order to "keep tap on evolving weathering processes."

The German and Japanese governments are involved in projects in Petra whereby training is provided for students of archaeology at Irbid's Yarmouk University by German experts, while the Japanese government has a research team involved in geochemical documentation of the rocks of Petra, according to Dr. Akashesh.

He added that Petra can only be protected and preserved if the inhabitants of the areas surrounding it are aware of the urgency and importance of conserving the unique and precious city.

"People around Petra need to be among those most interested in the protection of Petra," he said.

Moreover, a UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) team of experts is

involved in drawing the master plan to preserve the city's rich archaeological treasures with the help of local and international experts, said Anna Paolini, an Italian scholar who has done extensive research in Petra.

The eight-member team has evaluated the seriousness of water-caused soil erosion in the site. The experts are also working on introducing a plan for developing Wadi Mousa to make it more touristically oriented, Ms. Paolini said.

After discussing the numerous projects taking place at Petra and their impact on the area, the panel concluded its session by stressing the need for cooperation between the various parties concerned to successfully achieve their common priority, which is the development and preservation of the ancient city of Petra.

ICARDA to start 2-day workshop on natural resources management

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Specialists today will start a two-day workshop on biodiversity and natural resources management in the Near East region.

Organised by ICARDA (International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas) at the Amman Marriott Hotel, the workshop will bring together delegates from Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Turkey to discuss ways to protect soil and water resources and stem desertification in their regions through the implementation of a wide-scale programme on biodiversity and natural resources management, according to ICARDA Coordinator for the West Asia Region Nasri Haddad.

Dr. Haddad told the Jordan Times that the workshop, which will be attended by ICARDA Director General Nasrat Fadda along with ten senior scientists from the centre, is expected to work out details of a proposal to be presented to donor nations for financing nature-safeguard programmes in the

Near East.

In the meeting, which will be opened by Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif, the delegates are also expected to discuss ways of protecting the environment guided by recommendations passed by the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro in 1992, according to Dr. Haddad.

He said the meeting is organised in conjunction with the International Plan Genetic Resource Institute and will focus on ways to ensure sustainable agricultural and rural development and methods of dealing with drought and the management of land sustainability.

It is hoped, he said, that the delegates and ICARDA will reach agreement on a defined proposal to initiate the project for the best interest of the countries in the Near East.

According to the ICARDA official, the workshop complements in some way ICARDA's endeavours to develop agriculture, farming and pasture lands in the Arab World.

For instance, he said, the so-called Mashreq project

SAMSUNG

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WELCOME TO JORDAN

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Middle East Bloc Meeting

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The message from Europe

THE RESULTS of the elections for the European Parliament this week should carry no surprises. They are telling indications of people's frustration with the status quo both on the internal and external scenes. The fact that the parties in power, whether the left or the right, have suffered equal setbacks in their bids for the Strasbourg assembly reflects a clear dissatisfaction by the electorate with the policies that the European governments are pursuing.

The policies of the British Conservatives and the Spanish Socialists, to take two opposites, have in the past two years come under increasing pressure for failing to address growing economic and social problems.

The European ruling parties seem to be oblivious to the growing restlessness the voters are showing over the handling of the European Union affairs and the integration and stabilisation of Europe.

But the Europeans, no matter how genuine and profound their problems are, are to be envied. Thousands of millions of people — poor and downtrodden — cannot even have a say in the way they are being governed, let alone be able to change their government.

What many of the West European leaders fail to see in their quest for a grand Europe is that deep in Europeans' thought is a very genuine concern not only for their own wellbeing but for others inside and outside the continent whose fate will eventually have its reverberations in Europe.

While the European leaders press ahead towards a united Europe, it seems that this grand objective is blinding their eyes to the plight of the Bosnians, the Algerians, the Afghans, the Rawandans, and the Irish.

Europe, especially with its past record, cannot turn a blind eye to the plight of all those people. Peace and prosperity in Western Europe cannot be expected to hold for another 50 years while people on its western, eastern and southern frontiers are in turmoil. Europe, the cradle of Western civilisation has a moral obligation to lead and to lend a helping hand to those in dire need. By doing that, it will be protecting its future.

West European leaders cannot just wash their hands of Eastern Europe and Africa and ask America to lead. The U.S. has a long history of not wanting to act as a world leader. This has been demonstrated during World War II, during which the U.S. balked from the war for five years. The domestic challenges which will force the U.S. to look forward in the near future will leave a vacuum that Europe is best qualified to fill.

We in the Middle East look at Europe with great concern. We want the European experiment to work and succeed. We hope for it to engulf the whole of Europe. But we also look on Europe for partnership as do African and East Europeans. And unless Europe recognises the hopes, aspirations and needs of its neighbours, its experiment could fall victim to conflicts that will start elsewhere, but will end up breaking through the doors of the Continent.

Also, while the leaders of Europe can keep all the problems surrounding the Continent at a distance in the short term, they cannot keep the images of misery and strife from reaching into every European home. Considering Europe's history and past involvement in the current troubled parts of the world, these images are sure to stir some discontent.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the Arab League is displaying total impotence in dealing with Arab issues, more and more Arab countries are seeking international help for settling conflicts in the region, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said the Arab summit institution is also showing no desire to tackle issues of concern to the Arab World, prompting Arab governments to seek foreign help all the time. One stark example is the conflict in Yemen, where all Arab mediation efforts failed and where the Arab League proved unable to stop the fratricidal fighting, prompting Yemeni leaders on both sides to seek U.N. assistance to arrange for a ceasefire and to end the bloody war, said the paper. Indeed, said the paper, mistrust among the Arab leaders and failure on the part of the Arab League to act promptly to deal with emergencies have left a vacuum for foreigners to fill. The paper said before the Yemeni crisis, the Arabs opened their doors wide to the American-led coalition which wreaked havoc in Iraq, causing untold sufferings for the Iraqi people. The paper expressed hope that the U.N. envoy Alakhdar Al Ibrahim will eventually find a way for settling the conflict in Yemen and avert foreign interference.

Washington Watch

Arab-Americans and their self definition at a time of change

By James Zogby

CAUGHT IN the confusion of current events, the Arab-American community is facing challenges both to its self-identity and to the direction of its political organisations.

This month's issue of a Washington area Arab-American magazine even reports that one Arab-American leader is thinking of resigning his position both because he is disillusioned with the Israeli-Palestinian accord and because he is finding it difficult to define a political agenda that makes sense within the new political context.

The need to rethink the role of Arab-American organisations and their political agenda is not a task to be taken lightly or to be feared. The end of the cold war, the Gulf war and the ongoing Middle East peace process have all played a part in creating a new political reality both in the United States and in the Middle East. Such a transition cannot help but be traumatic for any group of leaders or peoples used to operating for decades under assumptions that are suddenly no longer valid.

Many Arab-Americans consider themselves "exiles" and because they do not define themselves fully as Americans, they do not participate in American politics or culture. Their approach to politics and to the Middle East reflects their inability to make the leap from there to here. They continue to frame issues in the language and ideologies of the past and cannot grasp that doors are open to our community that have never been opened before. For them, the overriding issues are not the struggles facing the American people but rather the regional, ideological and political struggles "back home."

Some Arab-American political organisations have allowed this mindset to set the tone and agenda of their political work and their own identity. By defining themselves as outsiders with a non-American agenda, they ensure that they and those they represent will remain on the margins of American political and cultural life.

To define oneself in this way reduces Arab-Americans to the status of mere surrogates for various Arab regimes, causes or principles and those who embrace this attitude become half people, neither fully Arab — because they do not live in the Arab World — nor fully American, because they have refused to participate as Americans in the American cultural and political scene.

This status of "exile" is perhaps fruitful for intellectuals, writers and artists. The isolation imposed by separation can be a powerful incentive to work and create, to struggle to assist the transformation of the old country and the old ways that still dominate there. Exiles from the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and elsewhere have all made great contributions not only to American culture, but to their homelands. Even so, a divided self cannot thrive forever. To live as an

outsider makes psychic and cultural demands too difficult for most people to sustain indefinitely. Sooner or later, one must find home — either by going back or by staying and assimilating. That is the experience of every immigrant group and Arab-Americans will be no different.

For the vast majority of Arab-Americans, the 70 per cent born in the United States and the larger part of the recent immigrant community, the choice has been made. They are Americans who can see no benefit from accepting a surrogate status. These Arab-Americans see themselves as a component group within American society and they seek to participate in and enjoy being a part of the complex cultural mosaic of the United States.

For this group the challenges posed by the new era are interesting and exciting. For example, the shifting of the political landscape brought about by the Israel-PLO mutual recognition has enabled Arab-Americans to gain unprecedented access and acceptance as a political and ethnic constituency. They are benefiting as a community from greater political opportunities. Their challenge is how to shore up their position given the new atmosphere while at the same time maintaining their role as a bridge to the Arab World and its people.

Fundamentally, they reject not only self isolation but the efforts of political adversaries to isolate them by portraying them as foreigners who somehow do not belong in the United States. The vast majority of Arab-Americans have not only steadfastly rejected such characterisations, but they have organised politically to defeat those who are trying to relegate them to second-class status. There have been instances where they turned the tables on Arab baiters by isolating them from their own party and political constituency.

Likewise, these Arab-Americans are not reacting defensively because suddenly there are doors open that have never been open before. Rather, they are seeking to gain admittance for as many Arab-Americans as possible. They have digested the nature of politics — doors must be pushed, but once they are open it is up to a given group or political constituency to parlay access into opportunity, power, and policy.

And recognising the new realities has enabled Arab-Americans to empower themselves by becoming full players in the U.S. political process.

The agenda has three parts:

1. To empower Arab-Americans in the political mainstream.

This effort requires setting up a system through which qualified Arab-Americans can be considered for appointments or jobs at all levels of local, state and federal

government. It also means supporting Arab-American candidates as well as those candidates who best represent their political concerns and agendas. This requires a sophisticated approach that does not turn on given election or a single position of a candidate. Politics is not only about electing friends, but also about trying to turn enemies into allies.

The most obvious manifestations of political support are raising money and getting out the vote and this requires full participation in all aspects of the political process: joining political parties, working in political campaigns and mobilising the Arab-American community into a voter bloc that can make a difference in electoral politics.

2. To create a role for Arab-Americans in the policy debate over Middle East peace and U.S.-Arab relations. Once access is gained and credibility earned, Arab-Americans must try to responsibly contribute to the policy debates that affect them as Americans and as Arab-Americans. Arab-Americans have been doing this to a significant degree since the Clinton administration took power, on issues ranging from the peace process and Palestinian rights to health care and immigration.

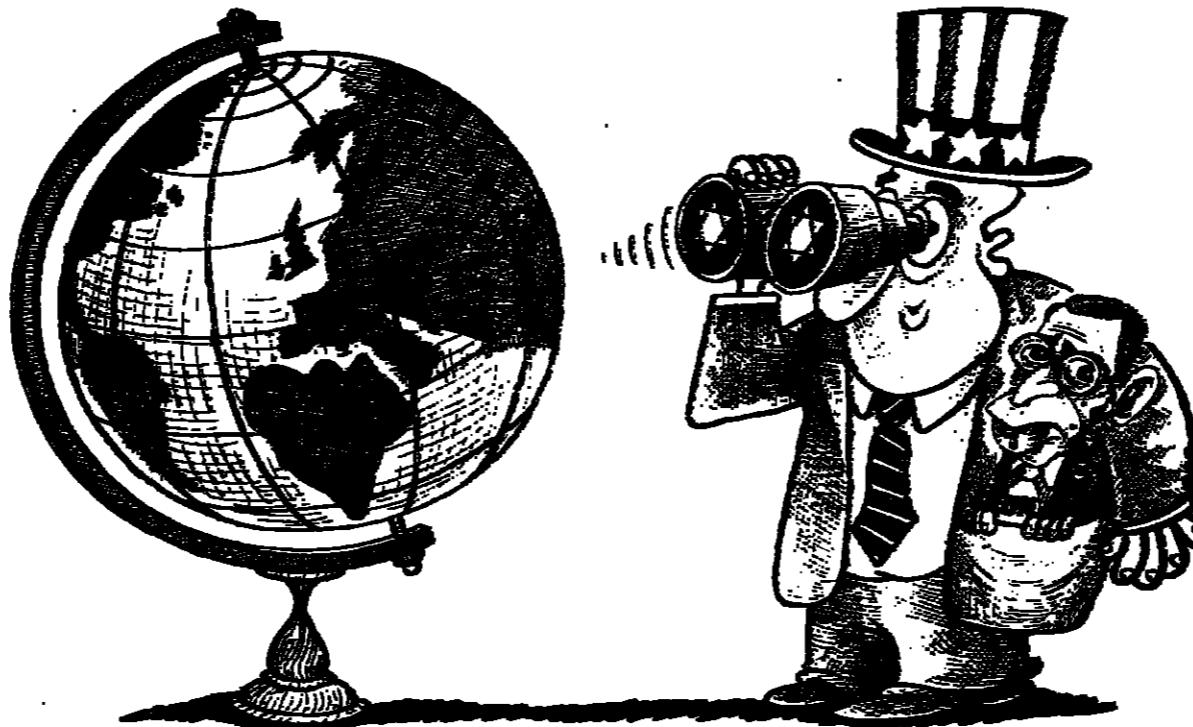
To most effectively play this role, Arab-Americans must seek to define themselves in terms of the unique status they have in American society. They are, in fact, Americans who can act as a bridge between two worlds. They can translate Arab concerns into the U.S. political process and also communicate the U.S. political process and U.S. policy to the Arab World. At the same time, as an extraordinarily successful ethnic community, Arab-Americans need to project the inherited values of their Arab culture and tradition to the broader U.S. policy debate on domestic social issues.

3. Finally, politically empowered Arab-Americans should seek to understand the needs of their community. But assessing needs without laying out a strategy to meet those needs will in the long run be futile, too. There are limited resources available to all Americans these days, not just Arab-Americans, and so a plan must be drawn up that shows how and where to best channel community resources.

A survey of Arab-American community needs has been done in several cities around the country. It shows that Arab-Americans, like all Americans, have a broad range of needs, some special and some common to others in our society: our immigrants need social services; access to health care; Arab-American grocers in the inner cities need protection and security from crime; many of our children need bilingual education or assistance.

The plan that must now be developed is a political one — how to access the agencies of government and the institutions in U.S. society in order to provide Arab-Americans with the support to meet the needs identified.

M. KAHN



Racial wounds are hard to heal

By Lawrence Bartlett
Agence France Presse

HARARE — As South Africa sets out to heal the wounds of racial conflict, recent events in neighbouring Zimbabwe show that the scars last a long time. Fourteen years after the end of white rule and more than a century after colonisation, a white family's plan to commemorate the arrival of their ancestors by ox-wagon has been denounced as threatening a race war.

The spectre of war was raised by both Vice-President Joshua Nkomo, who has been making increasingly vitriolic attacks on whites in recent months, and by Deputy Government Minister Simon Mayo.

Mr. Nkomo, who repeated an earlier warning of civil war, said whites who "perpetuate racial friction" should "move out of our country before it is too late."

At the centre of the latest row is the Rosenfeld family, which farms in the Murura ranching area some 70 kilometres west of Bulawayo.

They were planning a private family reunion on one of their farms, including a 20 kilometre trip in an ox-wagon, following the road used by family patriarch Max Rosenfeld when he settled there in July

1894 after trekking north from South Africa.

But when their plans came to the attention of Mr. Nkomo, the MP for the area, he said "unrepentant white settlers" were planning to celebrate the defeat of the Ndebele kingdom of Lobengula, which was subjugated by white occupation forces a century ago last October.

He said it would be a declaration of war and "they will profusely regret their racist appetite and misguided action."

Misunderstanding or not, the reactions of Mr. Nkomo and Mr. Nkomo demonstrate how fragile is the veneer of racial reconciliation in Zimbabwe nearly a decade-and-a-half after the

end of a bloody guerrilla war to overthrow white minority rule.

Mr. Nkomo has led the attack in recent months on the country's 100,000 whites, who make up one per cent of the population, regularly departing from his prepared speeches to denounce them for refusing to become assimilated as true Zimbabweans and failing to

share their wealth and land with blacks.

"It is our home. We are proud to be here. Why shouldn't we celebrate?"

Mr. Rosenfeld, a fluent Ndebele speaker, was chosen by President Robert Mugabe in 1990 as an MP for the ruling ZANU (PF) party.

Although neither has officially declared his candidacy, few Peruvians doubt Mr. Fujimori plans to seek a second term and the former U.N. secretary general appears close to a decision to run, analysts and politicians who met with him said.

"Perez de Cuellar is the only candidate who can give Fujimori a run for his money," said Manuel Torrado, political consultant and head of the Datum Polling Firm.

The elections are set for next April, with a second round in June if no candidate gains 50 per cent of the vote.

Daniel Estrada, mayor of the southeastern city of Cuzco, said Mr. Perez de Cuellar told him during a recent visit to Paris that he would return to Peru on July 20 and remain in the country "as long as he needs to make a decision."

A Datum poll of 999 people nationwide in mid-May indicated a Fujimori-Perez de Cuellar race would be a close one — 43.8 per cent would vote for the incumbent and 42.8 per cent would cast ballots for the former U.N. chief.

A poll by Apoyo Sa conducted in Lima, where support for Mr. Fujimori is seen as stronger, showed 45 per cent of those interviewed would vote for the president and 44 per cent would choose Perez de Cuellar.

"There is about a third who are solidly in favour of Fujimori, a third who solidly oppose him and another (third) who are undecided," said Apoyo Director Alfredo Torrado.

Mr. Fujimori could suffer from overexposure and many Peruvians now perceive the president, who capitalised in 1990 on voters' rejection of traditional politics, as a politician, while Perez de Cuellar would not have that image, Mr. Torrado said.

But Perez de Cuellar faces his own problems.

Nevertheless, Mr. Fujimori continues to ride a wave of popular approval four years into his five-year term.

The Datum poll showed 59.2 per cent approved Mr. Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants who rose from obscurity to beat novelist Mario Vargas Llosa in the 1990 election. The Apoyo survey in Lima gave the president a 61 per cent approval rating.

"There is no doubt Fujimori is the best president Peru has had in a long time so it would be very dangerous for an opposition candidate to go on the attack," Mr. Torrado said.

Fujimori's success in fighting a 14-year-old Maoist Shining Path guerrilla insurgency, bringing down inflation and stabilising the economy are perceived as his strongest achievements, the analysts said.

But most Peruvians have yet to see the successes in the economic sphere transformed into a real improvement in the quality of their lives, they added.

According to the Datum poll, 67.1 per cent of those surveyed identified unemployment and the lack of jobs as the number one problem facing the country followed by the economic crisis.

"This time, Peruvians are going to vote with their pocketbooks," said Apoyo's Torrado.

Mr. Estrada said the candidate who most successfully proposes "achievable ideas" on two issues — the creation of jobs and decentralisation — will carry the day in next year's vote.

In a referendum vote on a new constitution last November, the poor results from several interior regions reflected Mr. Fujimori's vulnerability in the provinces. The constitution, which makes his reelection possible, barely gained approval.

Since that tally, Mr. Fujimori has constantly been travelling to Peru's interior in what one opposition political commentator described as "governing from a helicopter."

Mr. Fujimori could suffer from overexposure and many Peruvians now perceive the president, who capitalised in 1990 on voters' rejection of traditional politics, as a politician, while Perez de Cuellar would not have that image, Mr. Torrado said.

But Perez de Cuellar faces his own problems.

Nevertheless, Mr. Fujimori is considered by many Peruvians, especially in rural areas, as having been "president of the world," he is also perceived as divorced from the lives of average Peruvians.

Perez de Cuellar must also walk a fine line of seeking support from traditional political parties while not appearing too close to them, since those groups are still largely discredited in the eyes of most Peruvians, the pollsters said.

Save water ... every drop counts

Features

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1994 5

Will Sonia Gandhi enter politics?

By M.R. Narayan
Swamy
Agence France Presse

NEW DELHI — Sonia Gandhi's surprise appearance at a meeting of India's ruling party has sparked intense speculation that the Italian-born widow of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi may be preparing to enter politics.

In her first political foray since her husband's assassination in May 1991, the 47-year-old Sonia Gandhi overshadowed Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao at the opening of the Congress (I) party convention here Friday.

The standing ovation she received from the 1,000 delegates was convincing evidence that the allure of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty remains irresistible to the 109-year-old Congress, India's oldest political party.

Congress delegates jostled one another as they tried to get close to the sari-clad Sonia Gandhi, and the sports stadium where the convention was taking place echoed with full-throated slogans hailing her and her late husband.

Amidst the commotion, Mr. Rao's arrival went virtually unnoticed until he had climbed the dais. Chants of "Long live Sonia Gandhi" went on even after he had begun speaking.

"It proved that the aura of the Nehru-Gandhi family remains intact," The Pioneer newspaper commented. "As far as the party workers are concerned, no one can match that appeal."

"She came, she conquered," blared another newspaper.

The Asian Age asked the question on everybody's lips: "Why did she come?" Opinion in the Congress

is divided as to why Sonia Gandhi cast aside her known distaste for the murky world of politics to attend the convention, when she had declined to attend similar meetings in 1992 and 1993.

Muri Deora, a party strongman from Bombay, said: "It is the desire of all congressmen that she should enter politics."

But Mani Shankar Aiyer, an MP close to the Gandhis, said he believed she does not intend to step into the political arena.

The media-shy Sonia Gandhi, who has kept herself busy overseeing the work of a foundation named after Rajiv Gandhi, was not available for comment.

The Nehru-Gandhi dynasty has ruled India for 40 of the past 47 years, beginning with Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first premier, his daughter, Indira Gandhi, and grandson, Rajiv.

Rajiv Gandhi served until 1989 and was on the campaign trail preparing a return to power when he was cut down by a suicide bomber in May 1991.

A rudderless Congress urged Sonia Gandhi to take over the party leadership after her husband's death. She refused, enabling Mr. Rao to come out of virtual retirement and become India's ninth prime minister.

The current speculation centres around whether her unexpected appearance at the party convention means she has changed her mind about politics.

"Mark by words, the tussle for power between Rao and Sonia Gandhi will begin now," The Pioneer quoted an unnamed Congress leader as saying Saturday, a fear shared by a section of the party.

The Italian-born Sonia



THE CHARM OF A DYNASTY: Sonia Gandhi (File photo)

Maino married into the Nehru-Gandhi family in 1968. She has never fought an election or held an official post.

She preferred the role of quiet housewife and mother to son Rahul and daughter Priyanka even after her

husband became prime minister.

But Sonia Gandhi, who speaks fluent Hindi and always wears a Sari in public, has long been seen as a potential rival to Mr. Rao because of her charisma and family name.

"If she decides to throw down the challenge, she can render Rao very uncomfortable," one Congress member said.

Newspapers have speculated in the past that Sonia Gandhi might want her daughter, Priyanka, 22, to enter parliament from the Amethi constituency, which her husband last won posthumously in 1991.

Pamphlets saying "Only Sonia and Priyanka can save the country" were distributed by Gandhi loyalists at the convention.

A war that nobody is winning

By Jeffrey Ulbrich
The Associated Press

KIGALI, Rwanda — The rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) has rolled up more than half the country in two months of savage fighting against government forces, but that doesn't really answer the question: Who is winning the war?

The initial advances brought the rebels to the gates of Kigali, the capital,

and Gitarama, the government's current seat 50 kilometres to the west.

Both cities are now under heavy rebel attack. But the lightning advances of past weeks have slowed almost to a standstill.

"How do you measure who is winning the war?" a senior independent military source asked rhetorically. "In this case, the RPF is winning the terrain, but (government forces) are killing more people."

Hundreds of thousands of Rwandans have died since the civil war erupted anew — nobody really knows how many. Most of the victims have been civilians. And most of those civilians have been from the minority Tutsi tribe, murdered by government-trained militias of the majority Hutu ethnic group.

"The (government forces) are now in a desperate mood," the senior officer said, speaking on condition that he not be identified.

Even if the Tutsi-led rebel forces win the war on the ground, they may have little left to rule because most of the Tutsis in the country will be dead. At the same time, the rebels will be too spread out and too thin on the ground militarily to control their gains effectively, the source said.

Recent withdrawals of government forces have left

gruesome results.

A frequent tactic, military sources say, is to exterminate Tutsis and other opponents systematically in an area, then conduct an orderly withdrawal. When the rebel forces come in, they find a human waste-

land. "It looks like when intense fighting is going on, the militia is also in there killing (civilians)," the military source noted. "So the withdrawal is not necessarily a defeat. It is always tactical and planned."

Rebels and representatives of the Rwandan army have conducted five rounds of ceasefire talks in Kigali, the capital, over the past 10 days with little result. One of the conditions set by the Patriotic Front is that the massacres must stop before there can be a ceasefire.

But before the massacres can stop, the militias must be brought under control, and it is far from clear that anyone will be able to do that.

The militiamen, armed with guns, knives, machetes and spears, enter villages and neighbourhoods methodically murdering Tutsis and others they don't like. They throw up roadblocks everywhere and menace all who pass.

Some observers believe the more the Patriotic Front rebels tighten the noose around the army in the southwestern corner of the country, the more frenzied the murder and massacres will become.

The rebels are steadily pounding army troops who hold the centre of Kigali and others holding out in the key city of Gitarama.

In Gitarama, the fighting has been so intense that President Theodore Sankara has left, taking a few of his ministers with him to the western town of Gisenyi near Lake Kivu, across from Zaire.

Serbs dig trenches, await new offensive

By Julijana Mojsilovic
The Associated Press

BRCKO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Warm weather, a lull in fighting and a cover of trees are enabling Serbs to dig new trenches protecting their lifeline from an expected attack that could be the most important engagement of the Bosnian war.

The Bosnian army, less than 1.6 kilometres away, can slice Serb lands in two by cutting across this northern corridor. But the Serbs who hold it are trying to ensure it would be the most difficult five kilometres of the war.

Any attacker likely would face a World War I-style slog over Serb trenches against withering artillery, tank and machine-gun fire.

From their observation post just outside Brcko, a town on the Croatian border about 100 kilometres north of Sarajevo, Bosnian Serb soldiers watch government forces.

"It's been peaceful here in the last two or three days, just a few bullets from time to time," said a local Serb commander who identified himself only as Cadjo. But few doubt an attack is coming or that its outcome is crucial.

Brcko is within the 5.5-kilometre-wide corridor that links Serb holdings in Bosnia and Croatia with Serb-dominated Yugoslavia. Only 9 per cent of its people were Serbs before fighting started two years ago. The rest were Muslims and Croats.

As many as 2,000 people are believed to have been killed when Serbs took control of the town in heavy fighting in summer 1992, and thousands more fled.

Serb nationalists want to unite all Serb-held lands in Croatia, Bosnia and Yugoslavia. They need the corridor not only to connect that land, but also to move equipment and soldiers. Without it, the lands to the west would be surrounded and could be slowly squeezed by the Muslim-led government and their Croat allies.

In recent weeks, there has been fighting around



FIGHTING ON: No end seems in sight for the Bosnian war despite the thousands of deaths and years of battling (AFP photo)

ported shelling and Serb infantry attacks on government lines in the vicinity.

While negotiations aimed at a temporary ceasefire languished in Geneva, the Bosnian Serb said they have refrained from a stiff counterattack.

They say they want a ceasefire first, and then talks on a division of Bosnia. The Bosnian government, which has made modest gains of

its own lately, has been hesitant to sign a ceasefire which could cement Serb gains.

"If Muslims, helped by Bosnian Croat troops, continue their offensive, the battle that would inevitably follow would be the bloodiest battle of the whole war," said Lt. Col. Milovan Milutinovic, Bosnian Serb army spokesman.

Bosnian Serb military

leaders are convinced they can repel any offensive.

Serb sources say at least 150 guns — mortars, multiple-barrel rocket launchers, cannons, howitzers, anti-aircraft guns — and up to 100 tanks are ready.

Serb infantry would be outnumbered but would fight from the trenches.

Two men in civilian clothes protected by tall trees bent over the ground

where they were digging near Brcko. Snipers could not see them, but in case they did, Serb fighters on guard in an unfinished house at the front line were ready to fire back.

"They see us," Cadjo said of the Muslims, "and if these U.N. guys were not here they would have sniped."

Two men in civilian clothes protected by tall trees bent over the ground

where they were digging near Brcko. Snipers could not see them, but in case they did, Serb fighters on guard in an unfinished house at the front line were ready to fire back.

Mr. Milutinovic, the Bosnian Serb spokesman, warned that Bosnian Serbs would not tolerate government attacks much longer.

Another Serb officer, Lt. Col. Miko Skoric, said Serbs "won't just take back small pieces of land that Muslims temporarily conquered. Our counteroffen-

sive will be serious."

About 200,000 people have been reported dead or missing in more than two years of war launched by the Bosnian Serbs, who rebelled against secession from Yugoslavia by Muslims and Croats. Serbs have never made public their casualties, but an unofficial Bosnian Serb military estimate put it at up to 50,000.

States jostle for site, head of new trade body

GENEVA (R) — Germany is making a formal — if seemingly doomed — bid to win the site of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) from Switzerland, and candidates are proliferating for the post of chief of the new body. Diplomats said the jostling was best of a complicated chess match among major and minor powers over the future of key international organisations which has to reach a judgment within the

next few weeks.

Leadership of the European Union (EU) and the Paris-based Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) are also involved in the bargaining alongside the WTO.

Countries ranging from Brazil and New Zealand to Canada, Belgium and Italy as well as Britain, the Netherlands and Mexico are caught up in the diplomatic "swap shop" on who gets what.

Trade sources said the German application for the WTO seat was expected by Wednesday's deadline at the Geneva headquarters of GATT, the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade which is to be absorbed by the WTO next year.

According to several senior GATT envoys, the bid to shift the WTO to Bonn, where dozens of government buildings will be left empty when the German capital be-

gins its move to Berlin in 1996, has almost no chance of success.

Although Economics Minister Guenther Rexrodt insists the bid is serious one, German officials acknowledge they have little hope of success.

"Fairness dictates that our offer for the WTO should be considered, but ultimately no one really believes that they will move from Geneva," said one.

However, the emergence of Bonn as a challenger to Geneva's vaunted "international city" status has brought into the open mounting discontent among diplomats and other foreign residents over restrictions imposed by the Swiss authorities.

This has been coupled with a growing feeling that the Swiss people, if not the government, have little commitment to an international role for their country — reaffirmed in a weekend referendum "no" to providing

troops for the United Nations.

"I think there is no doubt that in the end we will decide to stay here," said one top envoy in Geneva, seat of GATT since its creation in 1948, of several U.N. agencies and of the U.N.'s European headquarters — although the Swiss people have twice voted not to join the world body.

"But this will be largely because of the costs involved in moving, particularly for the poorer countries who will have to maintain a strong presence at the WTO," he added.

Switzerland's own offer on conditions for the WTO, which will have wider powers than the GATT and enjoy equal standing with the Washington-based World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, was submitted late last month.

Although it has remained confidential, it is widely believed to meet many of the

terms laid down by GATT chief Peter Sutherland for building rental, a new conference centre and better treatment for its staff and their families.

A decision is expected by the end of July, although it may not be until late in the year that the 120-plus countries in the GATT will decide who takes over from Mr. Sutherland, a tough former Irish attorney-general.

In recent days, Mexico's President Carlos Salinas has let it be known he would be interested in the WTO post — joining Brazil's Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero and EU-backed former Italian Trade Minister Renato Ruggiero in the race.

New Zealand, an active player in international trade politics and a possible compromise between developing countries and the EU, has two potential candidates — present Trade Minister Philip Burdon and his predecessor and one-time Prime Minister Michael Moore.

Russia to sell off bankrupt enterprises

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia plans to sell its failed enterprises to the highest bidder for a final attempt to save loss-making businesses and avert mass unemployment caused by factory closures, the head of a new government agency on bankruptcy has said.

The scheme unveiled by Sergei Belyaev, head of the Federal Bankruptcy Department, has received President Boris Yeltsin's approval in a decree that allows the sale of debt-ridden enterprises.

Experts also stress that the move will help resolve the problem of inter-enterprise debt, which has reached gigantic proportions since the collapse of the command economy and has forced the central bank into issuing fresh credits.

Mr. Yeltsin's chief economic adviser, Alexander Lifshits, warned last month that failure to solve the inter-enterprise debt problem would lead to the "Ukrainisation of the Russian economy" — a reference to the hyperinflation that has racked the economy of neighbouring Ukraine.

closure or sale under the new scheme.

The measure is viewed by economic advisors as a key move towards enforcing the country's dormant bankruptcy law, which has not been applied due to the government's concern that factory closures would provoke mass unemployment and social unrest.

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Mitsubishi Heavy and Hitachi Zosen suffer profit declines

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. and Hitachi Zosen Corp. have announced declines in consolidated earnings for the year to March, but said parent company profits would improve this year.

Mitsubishi Heavy, the country's biggest shipbuilder, defence contractor and nuclear power plant concern, said its pre-tax earnings dived 15 per cent from a year earlier to 1.1 billion yen (\$1.13 billion).

Sales slipped 1.4 per cent to 2.74 billion yen, depressed by lower revenue from ship sales except power generation, which were flat.

Mitsubishi Heavy offered a 10 per cent cut for this year and parent company earnings, which totalled 15.3 billion yen (\$1.18 billion), are expected to stage a partial recovery to 130 billion yen.

Parent sales, which grew 2.3 per cent to 2,435 billion yen, are expected to rise to 2,500 billion yen.

Hitachi Zosen, the heavy engineering affiliate of Sanwa Bank Ltd., said its consolidated pre-tax profit fell 0.8 per cent to 24.4 billion yen despite a 17.1 per cent increase in group sales to 525 billion yen.

Group forecasts for the current year were available but parent company earnings, which grew 25 per cent to 32 billion yen in the latest year, were forecast to rise to 23 billion yen. Parent sales, which were up 12.4 per cent at 403 billion yen, were projected to climb to 420 billion yen.

"Although some people are saying the economy is recovering, forecasts that the prolonged sluggishness will continue for some time due to structural problems in the Japanese economy," Hitachi Zosen said in a statement.

For the year just ended, Mitsubishi Heavy said revenue from its shipbuilding and steel structure operations

edged down 0.1 per cent to 448 billion yen while power systems revenue was flat at 683 billion yen.

Machinery sales dived 6.2 per cent to 517 billion yen and revenue from aircraft and special vehicles such as tanks fell 0.2 per cent to 456 billion yen.

Sales of general machinery and components along with airconditioning and refrigeration systems dropped 3.2 per cent to 331 billion yen.

Hitachi's revenue from shipbuilding and the construction of steel structures fell 0.4 per cent in 167 billion yen. But sales of machinery and prime movers grew 5.7 per cent to 56 billion yen and revenue from industrial plant and environmental equipment jumped 22.7 per cent to 155 billion yen.

Other sales, including revenue from biochemicals, new materials and electronic control equipment, jumped 19 per cent to 25 billion yen.

wanted men.

"We want Israel to grant us amnesty now that there is peace."

He said they were all members of the Black Panthers, the armed wing of Fatah in the West Bank, and had all halted their activities with the Sept. 13 signing of the declaration of principles by Israel and the PLO in Washington.

But, he said he and Mr. Subeih were among 19 still wanted by Israel after another 32 — charged with less serious crimes — were granted amnesty.

"We don't want to stay here, we don't want to become a haven for prisoners and wanted men."

The PLO has sacked officials who signed a compromise deal confining Palestinian prisoners freed by Israel to the self-rule enclave in Jericho, a Palestinian official said on Tuesday.

He said the officials, members of the liaison committee with Israel which monitors security in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, were not authorised to sign.

"We came partly to push to have our question raised again with the Israelis," Mr. Wawi, 24, told AFP, speaking on behalf of the other

HONG KONG (APP) — The figures are mind-boggling as they glow off of banker Cindy Yip's computer screen.

For a 20-year mortgage on an 825-square-foot (74-square-metre) middle-class apartment in today's teeming Hong Kong, expect to pay a staggering 23,304 Hong Kong dollars (\$3,015) a month, for 20 years.

Worse still, the bank will only lend half of what it thinks the value of the flat is. You will have to cough up the rest yourself, if you are lucky enough to have saved enough.

"Then there's the rates, the solicitors' fees and commission for the property agent," notes Ms. Yip, a customer service officer at a local bank. "For a lot of people in Hong Kong, it's a real burden."

Such a burden that hundreds of thousands of college graduates, newly-weds and young families here are having to put aside any hope of owning their own home any time soon.

The agency did not give a figure for 1992 profits and company officials were not immediately available for comment.

Oman Aviation's income in 1993 was up 12 per cent to 24.1 million riyals (\$6.2 million), the agency quoted its annual report as saying, also without giving a 1992 income figure.

But expenditures also rose because of an increase in fuel, operations and aircraft leasing costs.

Oman Aviation, launched as a domestic service in 1981, entered the world market last year under the name Oman Air with a new Boeing 737-700. It has said it plans to bring another aircraft into service this month.

The Oman News Agency said the company would pay a 1.4 million riyal (\$3.6 million) dividend, or 20 per cent of paid-up capital, to shareholders.

Oman Aviation is 35 per cent owned by the Oman government and the rest is held by Omani investors.

Oman jointly owns Bahrain-based regional carrier Gulf Air along with the governments of Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and Qatar. Qatar has also set up a national carrier, Qatar Airways.

sales jobs that pay hefty commissions — for instance, property agents.

For half of Hong Kong's six million people, the housing crisis does not exist, they live in government-subsidised public housing estates, often paying rents in the area of 1,000 dollars (\$130) a month.

Older units are so cramped that they are popularly known as "pigeon holes," but the fast-growing number of newer ones if private would easily rent for 10 times the government price.

Those with the big problem are Hong Kong's middle class, better known locally as "the sandwich class." They

earn too much to qualify for public housing, but too little for a down payment or mortgage.

They can rent, but that too is not easy. For that same 825 square foot apartment, the monthly rent is likely to be 20,000 dollars (\$2,590) — about the same as a junior manager's income in a trading company.

Leaving Hong Kong altogether is another option. Fewer fears about life after 1997 remain the prime reason Hong Kongers are still emigrating at a rate of 1,000 a week, the high cost of living has become a powerful new incentive.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 15, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

An excellent day for you to extend your boundaries far beyond there present limitations as you make constructive plans to gain your goals and become more alert to what is going on around you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

This is a good day for accomplishing a great deal of assignments. Show others you have many talents. Strive to be successful in your endeavours.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Use your intuition, which is accurate now, in handling financial affairs. Think along optimistic lines on how to get your dues done.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

The right day to handle important matters of the past as well as current ones. Don't take risks when dealing with others you are associated with.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

Plan how to be more successful in the future. The planets are now favourable for a successful endeavour which you are now involved in.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

Be sure to complete any tasks left undone before taking on new assignments. Take time to study subjects that can be helpful to you in the future.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22)

Know what your personal wishes are and how best to gain them. This can be a particularly fine day for you to get those projects completed.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

Take time to put your business affairs in better order. Await a better time for looking into new outlets for new endeavours. Be wise.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21)

Support persons who have been loyal to you in the past. Be more supportive of the one you love. Express happiness and joy to this person.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21)

Study your money situation and make plans to have more financial security especially in tough times. Handle credit affairs well.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

Have conferences with higher-ups and gain their backing and goodwill. Take time to improve your appearance for those close to you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

Use more modern methods and get better results. A financial expert can give advice for a plan you have in mind to be more productive.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

Talk over mutual affairs with associates and make the future brighter. Handle important business matters wisely so you can get ahead.

THE Daily Crossword

By Gayle Dean

ACROSS

1. American native

6. Rhyme scheme

10. And others

14. Built-in box

15. Reserved prefix

17. Author Jong

18. Bit

19. Dances

21. "Starkey to Heaven"

24. "Adore" —

25. Trunks

31. Mexican

32. Woodwind

33. Level

34. Destroy

35. Permeates

40. Take second, summarily

43. Explosive

45. Stethoscopes

46. And so forth

47. Knobbed or land

48. — notes

52. Modifying

53. German novelist

54. Hot stuff

55. "Puffin" time

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Russia tells Bosnian Serbs to give up land, warns U.S.

SARAJEVO (R) — Russia's foreign minister, backing an international initiative to end the war in Bosnia, warned Bosnian Serbs Tuesday to give up conquered land or risk losing support from Moscow.

Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman held talks in Sarajevo with Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic over a possible confederation of their states.

"If you choose peace, you can count on the most decisive support from Russia," Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Moscow.

"But I want to warn you. There is also another choice, which we think leads to war. You cannot control 70 per cent of territory by force as you do now," Mr. Tudjman said.

Mr. Kozyrev's warning comes as Western and Russian diplomats are putting the pressure on the Serbs and the Muslim-led Bosnian government to accept their proposal to divide the country in a compromise partition.

The major powers' plan calls for giving the Serbs 49 per cent of Bosnia and the rest to Muslims and Croats.

But neither side has endorsed the 51-49 split and Serb leaders, whose forces control 70 per cent of the country, say the proposed

peace map ignores Serb interests.

Mr. Tudjman arrived in Sarajevo Tuesday for his first official visit to the war-torn capital, and held talks with Mr. Izetbegovic over the newly formed Bosnian Federation and its possible confederation with Croatia.

Mr. Tudjman's one-day visit underlined the improvement in Muslim-Croat relations since the United States helped broker a common federal state between the former foes, ending a 10-month war for territory in central Bosnia.

Although fighting has mostly subsided between Serbs and Muslim-led army forces due to a temporary one-month ceasefire, the relative calm was marred by inter-Muslim clashes in the northwestern enclave of Pocitelj.

The mostly Muslim Bosnian government army in the past few days has advanced against rebel forces loyal to breakaway Muslim leader Fikret Abdic, a United Nations spokesman said.

"Despite bad weather the fifth corps retained its pressure on Abdic forces," U.N. commander Eric Chaperon said Tuesday.

U.N. military sources said they were fearful nearby Serbs would intervene in the inter-Muslim fighting.

Mr. Abdic split with the

Bosnian government in Sarajevo last summer over his willingness to negotiate with the Serbs.

Muslim-led army advances were reported late Monday after the U.N. commander in Bosnia said he was encouraged by the initial success of the three-day old truce, despite reports of sporadic clashes between Muslims and Serbs.

"I have been encouraged generally by the decreasing levels of fighting," said Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose in Sarajevo.

Fighting inside the Bihać pocket began Saturday, the day after the U.N.-brokered truce, which Mr. Abdic did not sign, came into effect.

Bosnian army Fifth Corps soldiers captured 30 kilometres of ground and two companies of Mr. Abdic's forces Monday, the sources said, with troops loyal to Sarajevo advancing up a main road to the town of Pocitelj.

Two Serb tanks from the Krajina region were reported to be shelling Bosnian army territory on Mr. Abdic's behalf, the U.N. said, adding to fears of wider Serb involvement in the clashes.

The Bihać pocket is surrounded by Serb forces but there has been no fighting along the external confrontation line since the Geneva truce became effective.

The West has long worried

U.S. European and Russian diplomats hope the temporary truce will provide momentum for negotiations on a final peace settlement.

Diplomats from the international "contact group" are scheduled to meet later this week to prepare a final proposal to present to the warring factions.

Russia warned the United States on Tuesday that a unilateral withdrawal from a U.N. arms embargo in Bosnia could revive international confrontation of even lead to another world war.

Mr. Kozyrev used the opportunity of a meeting with Mr. Karadzic to blast U.S. legislators, for recent decisions, aimed at opening the way for arms supplies to Muslim forces in the former Yugoslav republic.

If American legislators try such steps in favour of the (Muslims) it would create a new political situation...It is definitely a way to a new world war," Mr. Kozyrev said in the presence of reporters as he welcomed Mr. Karadzic to Moscow.

The U.S. House of Representatives, following the example of the Senate, voted last week to order President Bill Clinton to lift the embargo, declared by the United Nations on all former Yugoslav republics in September 1991.

Western attitudes towards the Serbs in former Yugoslavia have frequently annoyed Russia, which has close historic and religious ties with Serbia.

Russia expressed its anger earlier this year when NATO issued an ultimatum to Serb forces, which besieged Bosnian capital Sarajevo.

Russia accused the West of making the decision without consulting Moscow. The incident caused a delay in Russia joining NATO's programme "partnership for peace," especially designed for ex-Soviet republics and former Soviet block states.

Russia's conservative parliament last month passed a non-binding resolution urging President Boris Yeltsin to consider pulling out of U.N. economic sanctions



Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrei (AFP photo)

Romanians launch marathon protest

BUCHAREST (R) — Thousands of Romanian workers Tuesday began a week-long anti-government street protest against plunging living standards and sluggish economic reforms.

Some 10,000 trade unionists chanted "thieves, thieves" and handed out leaflets saying "how long shall we starve?" to back demands for protection from near 300 per cent inflation.

Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu, saying the action would destabilise the country, warned Monday he would deploy 10,000 anti-riot troops to prevent trouble, but

the protest seemed orderly and well-organized.

About 1,500 miners in pit helmets were among protesters who filled Bucharest's Aviator Square for the rally which began four years to the day after President Ion Iliescu's bloody 1990 coalminers' crackdown.

The protest seemed orderly and well-organized.

The archbishop of Basilan Tuesday said no ransom would be paid for the priest, even if it meant putting his life at risk.

Marine Colonel Victor Salazar, head of military forces in Basilan, said he believed the Muslims intended to use the priest as a shield to prevent the army from attacking and to give the kidnappers a chance to flee.

The kidnapping and massacre are believed to be in retaliation for a government offensive against the Abu Sayyaf on the nearby island of Jolo earlier this month. At least 41 Abu Sayyaf members were killed in the attack.

Gen. Soriano, who earlier said the army would refuse to pay for the freedom of the hostages, admitted a ransom had been paid, but denied he had been informed of the move beforehand. He reiterated the government position that no ransom would be paid.

They are also holding another man.

Gen. Soriano said three battalions of Marines were ready to take part in the

Philippine military prepares to attack Muslim kidnappers

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AFP) — The Philippine army is preparing to launch a major offensive against a Muslim gang holding a Roman Catholic priest hostage on the island of Basilan, a senior commander said Tuesday.

"We are ready to launch the big operation against them," Lieutenant General Orlando Soriano, head of military forces in the southern Philippines said of the gang.

The kidnappers, allied to a Muslim fundamentalist guerrilla group, Abu Sayyaf, kidnapped 37 people on June 8 and immediately killed 15 male hostages.

They released 20 of the remaining 22 hostages, mostly schoolteachers, Monday after local officials paid a ransom reported to be as high as one million pesos and have demanded a three million peso (\$112,000) ransom for the release of the priest, Father Cirilo Nacorda.

They are also holding another man.

Gen. Soriano said three battalions of Marines were ready to take part in the

Exxon, tanker captain liable in 1989 Alaska oil spill

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AFP) — Exxon Corp. and the captain of the Exxon Valdez acted recklessly in the 1989 accident off the Alaska coast that led to the largest U.S. oil spill, a jury ruled.

The jury ruling against the oil giant and Exxon Valdez Captain Joseph Hazelwood means they could be liable for \$15 billion in punitive damages in addition to \$1.5 billion in lost income and property.

The plaintiffs in the case included more than 10,000 commercial fishermen, property owners and Alaskan natives.

The jury of nine women and three men will determine damages in the federal court trial for the March 24, 1989 spill of 40 million liters (11 million gallons), of crude oil into Prince William Sound.

The claim for punitive damages was based on the plaintiffs' contention that Capt. Hazelwood was drunk when he turned over the tanker to an inexperienced crewman in hazardous conditions, and that Exxon knew of the pilot's drinking problem.

During the trial, Capt. Hazelwood — whose actions are at the centre of the dispute — was alternately portrayed as a "respectable man who is being trashed" and as an alcoholic who was drunk

on the job the night of March 24, 1989 when the Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound.

Exxon Chairman Lee Raymond said after the verdict: "We are disappointed with the jury's finding that Exxon's conduct was reckless and that this recklessness was a legal cause of the accidental grounding of the Exxon Valdez."

"We believe... that the evidence presented in the next phases of the trial showing that Exxon has already spent and done will convincingly demonstrate that no award of punitive damages should be made," he added.

The tanker leaked nearly 45 million liters (11 million gallons) of crude oil over some 2,400 kilometres (1,500 miles) along the pristine coast. The foul, black slick killed roughly half a million birds, fish and other wildlife.

The plaintiffs' lead lawyer, Brian O'Neill, said Exxon had discovered more than one year before the spill that Capt. Hazelwood had resumed drinking after undergoing treatment for alcoholism in 1983.

Top Exxon executives testified during the trial, which began on May 2 here, that Capt. Hazelwood was monitored closely but presented no supporting evidence.

Mr. Foster, whose actions are at the centre of the dispute — was alternately portrayed as a "respectable man who is being trashed" and as an alcoholic who was drunk

DHAKA (R) — The brother of Bangladeshi feminist writer Taslima Nasrin has lodged a complaint with police against threats to kill his sister and asked them to ensure her safety.

Nasrin, in her early 30s, provoked the fury of Muslim fundamentalists in Bangladesh by allegedly telling the Statesman newspaper in Calcutta, India, that Islam's holy book, the Koran, should be "revised thoroughly."

Nasrin, who in the past has taken public positions against marriage and religion, has said she was misquoted.

The government ordered her arrest after the Bangladesh Times reprinted the Statesman article on June 4, triggering an angry reaction from local Islamic fundamentalist groups.

Islam said Nasrin "has committed an unforgivable offence against Islam and must be condemned to death."

He made the appeal three days after Mufti Nazrul Islam announced at a Muslim rally in Khulna that he would give 100,000 taka (\$2,500) to anyone who killed Nasrin.

Islam said Nasrin "has committed an unforgivable offence against Islam and must be condemned to death."

Tens of thousands of fun-

Rao party defers election reform bill

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India's ruling Congress (I) Party suffered a setback Tuesday when it was forced to put on hold a bill aimed at curtailing the powers of controversial chief election commissioner T.N. Seshan.

"The government does not intend to introduce the bill," Minister of State for Law H.R. Bharadwaj told the lower house of parliament, saying a "consensus" had not been reached with the opposition, whose support was needed for passage.

The bill, which needed the support of two-thirds of parliament to become law, sought to curtail the mercenary Seshan's authority by revamping the election commission to create three commissioners with equal powers.

The main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Indian People's Party had come out against the bill and the Congress was counting on the support of MPs from smaller opposition parties in its bid to back the legislation.

The bill, which needed the support of two-thirds of parliament to become law, sought to curtail the mercenary Seshan's authority by revamping the election commission to create three commissioners with equal powers.

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Sacchi says it is time to play good soccer

MARTINSVILLE, N.J. (AP) — Time has come for Italy to play good soccer for 90 minutes, after showing samples of its potential in recent warmup matches.

Coach Arrigo Sacchi said Monday that Italy's opening World Cup game against Ireland will give clear indications on whether the "Azzurri" can produce a steady quality of play and earn a top spot in the one-month competition.

Italy, which has won three titles in 1934, 1938 and 1982, is rated among the top contenders in the upcoming edition.

"The field will give us the answers. The game will say if we can play at good levels throughout if we succeed, we will earn victory (against Ireland) and the belief that we can go far away in the World Cup," the Italian coach said at the Pingu School, Italy's training camp.

Italy takes on Ireland at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford Saturday in its first game of a preliminary round also including Norway and Mexico.

Sacchi was critical of Italy's recent unimpressive performances against Switzerland and Costa Rica.

Both games — in Rome before the team departure for the United States and in New Haven, Conn. Saturday — ended with 1-0 wins, on goals by striker Giuseppe Signori. However, the Italian team play was dull in the first 45 minutes and the midfield often erratic.

"The team certainly has some problems, the play was not of top quality. We can't be satisfied with 15-20 minutes of good play per game and can't think to earn praise



for that. We must improve. The match with Ireland will be a decisive test," Sacchi said.

The coach said he'll announce the lineup on the eve of Saturday's match, thus avoiding to fuel controversies about the possible use of Daniel Massaro in place of Dino Baggio — no relation with the team star-forward Roberto Baggio.

Massaro's inclusion in the second half with Costa Rica noticeably improved Italy's play and helped a more offensive attitude by Roberto Baggio and Signori.

"Dino Baggio was sidelined (by knee cap surgery) this year and is paying for his long inactivity. I keep him in great esteem. He is not yet in peak form, but other (Italian) players are not in their best form, too," the coach said.

Massaro, a 33-year-old veteran forward of AC Milan, scored a streak of decisive goals in league and champions cup matches this year, helping Milan powerhouse to score an unprecedented double triumph in the same-season.

Sacchi said Italian players were growing a "normal, positive pressure" for the game with Ireland.

"Many of them have learned to stand it in international games with their clubs... Certainly the Irish players

are tense, too. It's a very important game, awarding three points and a good start in the tournament," Sacchi said.

Newly-enforced World Cup rules provide three points for each victory, and one for a draw, in preliminary rounds.

Sacchi said he hoped that the new system "would force all teams to play for a win, rather than for a draw."

Ireland is a team with a great fighting spirit, which greatly improved in the last four years, after reaching the quarterfinals in Italy (in the 1990 World Cup). It's a reality in world soccer and is extremely dangerous for its aggressive play.

"They like long passes and headers. We must not accept to play Irish style, we must impose the Italian way of quick, short passes for overcoming a tough opponent," Sacchi explained.

AC Milan's key defender Paolo Maldini, who did not play against Costa Rica following a pulled right thigh muscle, was likely to resume full training Wednesday and be fit for Saturday's match.

Roberto Baggio, the 1993 world best player, still was nursing a light right Achilles tendon inflammation but team doctors said he was improving day after day.

Goalie Gianluca Pagliuca, who may transfer from Sampdoria to Internazionale of Milan soon after the World Cup, said he was happy with the lack of fans pressure in U.S. training sites.

"Many Americans clearly do not know us... But this is a good condition for preparing for the cup. I like it," Pagliuca said.



GERMANS ARRIVE: German team captain Lothar Matthaeus arrives with his team at O'Hare Airport in Chicago Monday for the upcoming 1994 World Cup. Germany will open the World Cup June 17 against Bolivia at Soldier Field (AFP photo)

FIFA denies water claims of Irish team

NEW YORK (AP) — FIFA Monday denied claims by the Irish national team that players would not be allowed to drink water during World Cup games, saying the restrictions only included requiring players to come to the sidelines for it.

"FIFA encourages players to drink, but they can't do it in the middle field," FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni said from Dallas. "We don't want bottles thrown on the field."

British newspapers quoted Irish team officials as saying FIFA was banning all drinking during games.

"Unless FIFA lift this water ban, there could be a fatality at this World Cup," Michael Walsh, chief medical officer for Ireland's football association, was quoted as saying.

"When players lose 4 percent of their body weight, which is about 8 pounds (3.5 kilogramme), they quickly get cramps, become dizzy and disoriented. If water is not brought to them very quickly, it could become

something very serious. We have made another representation to FIFA for this ruling to be changed."

But Tognoni was incredulous that the Irish team came up with their particular interpretation of the regulation, particularly since the regulation is unchanged from the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

"I have no idea where this came from," he said. "The Irish, excluding Jack Charlton, were at (FIFA's) New York workshop (in February). We even sent a circular letter telling them to drink."

FIFA conducted a week-long workshop in New York for all 24 teams playing the World Cup, explaining operations, including new things such as the "mixed zone" interview areas for players and coaches.

"The field is to play, not to drink. The field is not a bar," Tognoni said. "Also there is a certain danger with throwing the bottles."

The issue has caused quite a stir, sparking calls to FIFA's World Cup headquarters.

"We have received several

requests," Tognoni said. "I don't know, maybe something happened in prep games in Canada."

"They (Ireland) know this already. If they have problem they can call FIFA. Meanwhile, they have an experienced World Cup team."

Tognoni said FIFA supplies all teams with any equipment they need to take on the field — including water bottles. The reason is that FIFA wants to avoid any unofficial advertising.

"Every team receives 20 bottles," Tognoni said. "They only have FIFA emblem, that's not new for teams, teams knew this for several months."

"Whatever is carried on field is provided for by FIFA: Bags for goalkeepers, coolers, bags for medical treatment."

Tognoni said there has been no effort on FIFA's part to contact Ireland to clarify the issue.

"I think they (Ireland) do understand," he said. "We would be crazy not to let them drink."

Spike Lee adopts Indomitable Lions

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) — American filmmaker Spike Lee, long known as a basketball fanatic, has turned soccer supporter for the World Cup, with special affection for the African teams.

During matches of interest in Europe and South East Asia, GM will advertise Opel. For games involving Latin American teams GM will plug Chevrolet.

Eight firms are "marketing partners." They paid \$7 million each for the right to use the World Cup logo. These companies are focusing mainly on the U.S. market, but they also hope to raise their profiles overseas.

All revenues from this category go to World Cup USA.

The eight manufacturers of "official products" paid \$2.5 million apiece and they are targeting the 16 million reg-

istered soccer players in the United States and their families, a market estimated to be between 40 and 50 million.

There are 15 equipment suppliers, who furnish the organising committee with \$1 million worth of goods and services in exchange for advertising space.

The "regional partners," banks and companies that operate locally in the United States, paid \$250,000 each for advertising rights at the various sites.

Finally, 100 firms have bought the right to manufacture "related products" such as T-shirts, key chains and video cassettes bearing the official logo. Sales of such items are expected to reach \$400 million.

But Lee said he would not limit his interest to behind the scenes support.

"I definitely want to make the Brazil-Cameroun game," he said. "I don't think they'll allow me to be close to the field, it's different than with the Knicks."

Lee, whose films include the racially charged "Do the Right Thing," "Jungle Fever" and "Malcolm X," said he hoped the U.S. black community would back Cameroon and the other African finalists.

"I'm trying to get the African-American community behind African teams," he said.

"I've seen the way the Italian and Irish communities have embraced their teams. I've seen 2,000 fans at the airport to greet the Italian team," he said.

Much has been made of the contributions of ethnic communities to football in the United States, but Lee said most black Americans were relative newcomers to the game.

"I hope this brings awareness," he said. "Soccer is the world's most popular sport. It's an opportunity to get introduced."

Lee said the sports heroes of his youth were basketball players like Kareem Abdul Jabbar, Julius Erving and Magic Johnson, while the feats of Pele were unknown to him.

That ugly American sport

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — Like most Europeans, Norwegian national soccer team coach Egil Olsen thinks of the game he has devoted his life to as "football." So what would he call American football? "Awful," he said Monday about the once slick at Giants Stadium in New Jersey. Olsen had gone to inspect the stadium where his team will play two of its three games in this month's first round of the World Cup soccer tournament. While there he had the chance to watch U.S. professional football players face off on the line of scrimmage. "They'd play for 9 seconds and then stop. It was awful. It was so boring. It was definitely nothing for me," said Olsen. "What was the worst thing about it? They called it football."

World Cup on course to turn a profit

WASHINGTON (AFP) — With \$750 million in revenue guaranteed, sponsorship has met half of the 1994 World Cup budget of \$1.5 billion.

"We have already met our objectives," World Cup spokesman John Griffin said.

He estimated the Cup, which starts June 17 in nine cities across America, would realize a surplus of \$25 million.

To make the most of its sources of revenue, the organising committee instituted several levels of sponsorship.

Eleven multinational corporations paid between \$10 and \$20 million to join the elite group of official sponsors. FIFA, football's governing body, will pocket all the revenues from this category.

Sponsors are counting on a cumulative audience of 32 billion for the 52 matches although their main target is the non-U.S. market.

"Soccer is the universal

language. If you set out to

match a global brand with a global sport, there is no better choice," said a spokesman for Gillette, which has the longest history of World Cup sponsorship among U.S. companies.

Coca-Cola, a World Cup sponsor since 1978, is also focusing its promotions on the non-American market.

Gary Hart, Coke's vice president in charge of international sports marketing, admitted they were not primarily attracted because the competition was taking place in the United States.

"We bought into it because it is such a magnificent global event," he said.

The credit card company Mastercard will spend about \$75 million on sponsorship and advertising during the tournament.

"We have targeted the World Cup as a platform to help us build brand awareness internationally," said Mava Heffler, vice president

of advertising operations.

Both Mastercard and McDonald's will broadcast global television commercials — using the same ads on every continent.

General Motors plan to differentiate their advertising messages by match, using the advertising boards that surround the pitch.

During matches of interest in Europe and South East Asia, GM will advertise Opel. For games involving Latin American teams GM will plug Chevrolet.

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The eight manufacturers of "official products" paid \$2.5 million apiece and they are targeting the 16 million reg-

FIFA President Joao Havelange wins World Cup

PARIS (AFP) — Joao Havelange has saved his job as head of world football and written off the threat from Olympic soccer by turning the 1998 finals in France into a 32-team tournament.

By promising Asian, African and Caribbean countries more places in the World Cup, he pulled together enough votes to dissuade possible rivals from running at the FIFA elections in two weeks' time.

And by making the World Cup twice as big as the Olympic soccer tournament he ensured that his competition would stay as the premier sporting occasion. Even if Olympic chief Juan-Antonio Samaranch finally forced him to let the world's best players compete in the games.

It was an old trick. Jean Marie Faustin Godofredo Havelange got himself elected in the first place in 1974 when he deposed Sir Stanley Rous by promising a bigger World Cup. He fulfilled his promise in 1982 by increasing the competition in Spain from 16 to 24 teams.

The 78-year-old former Olympic swimmer and water-

polo player had wielded undisputed power in deciding how and where football was played since 1974.

But cracks started to appear in the facade when the European football union's 65-year-old Swedish president Lennart Johansson hinted he might stand in the FIFA elections.

Havelange appeared to be losing his grip when he clacked his Pele from the World Cup extravaganza in Las Vegas last November when the draw for this year's finals was made.

The FIFA chief was furious and by making the World Cup twice as big as the Olympic soccer tournament he ensured that his competition would stay as the premier sporting occasion. Even if Olympic chief Juan-Antonio Samaranch finally forced him to let the world's best players compete in the games.

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polo player had wielded undisputed power in deciding how and where football was played since 1974.

Havelange was in Trinidad making sure he got the vote of CONCACAF President Jack Warner when the FIFA president's job came up for election.

Warner gave Havelange his backing on condition the Caribbean and North American countries got an extra place in the 1998 World Cup.

Trips to Kuala Lumpur and Tunis, where extra places were exchanged for pledges of support, secured the Asian and African bloc votes.

The European challenge caved in and suddenly everybody was happy to allow Havelange run for a sixth term which will enable him to retire in 1998 when, coincidentally, Johansson's UEFA post expires.

However, those eight extra places at the World Cup partly are already causing strife.

The Europeans, who have 13 finalists, have suggested Africa, Asia and CONCACAF go from two to three each. Oceania gets a guaranteed place and South America four.

They also suggest the hosts but not the holders qualify automatically and that the four remaining places go to

the continent(s) whose teams fill the four semi-final slots in this year's tournament.

If the past two World Cups are anything to go by, Europe should get three extra places and South America one more.

But if Havelange could get FIFA to accept the United States as a plausible World Cup host, then deciding who should be invited to the next party should be well within his powers.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Curry's medals to be auctioned

LONDON (AP) — The three gold medals won by the late British figure skater John Curry in 1976 will be sold at Sotheby's auction house next month to raise money for his widowed mother. The medals, from the European championships, Olympic games and world championships, were consigned to auction by Curry before his death from an AIDS related illness April 15. The proceeds from the sale, to be estimated around £10,000 (\$15,000), will be used "according to Curry's wish which was to benefit his family and in particular his widowed mother," a statement from Sotheby's said. "John lost a terrible amount of money," 70-year-old Ruth Curry told the Daily Mail. "We had no savings, no investments." Curry, 44, was the first Briton to win an Olympic figure skating title.

Walker rejoins Celtic

GLASGOW, Scotland (AFP) — Andy Walker rejoined Celtic here Monday, just two years after quitting the club to join Bolton in England. The 29-year-old striker signed a three-year contract at Parkhead. The fee has yet to be decided between the clubs. Walker, an FA Cup hero for Bolton over the past two seasons, is currently out of contract. Walker said: "I have been back to see Celtic play a few times but I did not think I would be back as a player. It has always been the club closest to my heart and I always looked for their result. My plan would be to be part of a Celtic side that is back winning trophies and leagues soon." Tottenham defender Colin Calderwood has also arrived at Celtic Park for transfer talks with Macari.

Holyfield 'better' after healing session

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The three-knockdown rule apparently was not in effect for Evander Holyfield during a Christian healing session. In fact, Holyfield felt so good after the service that he is considering a return to boxing. Holyfield dropped to a stage three times Friday night and proclaimed himself ready to resume his career. The former heavyweight champion, who retired in April because of what doctors call a stiff heart, said he had "a warm feeling" go through his chest after faith healer Benny Hinn touched him. "I was searching for a reason to come back, but the right reason," Holyfield said. "I know I can go back and win, but win for the Lord. I'm healed."

Jaskula out of Tour de France

PARIS (AFP) — Polish rider Zenon Jaskula, third in the Tour de France last year, will not take part in this year's race after the team line-up was announced Tuesday. Twenty-one teams and 189 riders will be at the start July 2 at Lille — but Jaskula's Monaco-based team Jolly were not included in the starters. Tour director Jean-Marie Leblanc said: "We regret losing him but he and his team have done nothing this year to justify taking part." Jaskula failed to finish both the Tour of Spain and Tour of Italy this season. The best represented country is Italy with eight teams, followed by France's four entrants and three from Spain.

IAAF axes indoor walk races

PARIS (AFP) — Indoor race walking has been axed by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF), it was announced Tuesday. A meeting of the IAAF council at Monaco led to the decision, which split out that indoor walking had little public support. The meeting also rubber-stamped decisions that the 1998 World Cup would be staged in Johannesburg, with Cape Town hosting the 1994 World Cross Country Championships.

Courier, Stich advance in straight-set victories at Halle

HALLE, Germany (AP) — Jim Courier and Michael Stich marched to easy victories Monday in first round matches at the Halle Grand Prix — a tournament that serves as a final tuneup before Wimbledon. Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion and top seed, needed only one break in each set to oust Venezuela's Nicolas Peireira 6-3, 6-4 in just 73 minutes. Courier, seeded third, downed Rodolphe Gilbert of France, 6-4, 6-4. Fourth-seeded Cedric Pioline of France and No. 5 Marc Rosset of Switzerland also won easily, while No. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia struggled past France's Olivier Delaître 7-6 (7-4), 3-6, 6-3.

Boli set for Glasgow Rangers

MARSEILLE (AFP) — Olympique Marseille defender Basile Boli is set to sign for Glasgow Rangers, it was revealed here Tuesday. Marseille said their French international was contacted by the Scottish champions Monday and is expected to fly to Glasgow for a medical before signing. Rangers are reported to have offered £2.7 million (\$4 million) for Boli, who headed the only goal in Marseille's European Cup win over AC Milan last year. Lazio, the other contender for Boli's signature, have been hesitating over whether to go ahead with the transfer.

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WEST	EAST
♦ A 3 2	♦ Q 10 9 8
♦ 7 5 2	♦ A 3
♦ 10 8 7	♦ K 6 2
♦ Q 5 4 2	♦ J 9 7 6

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	2	Pass	2
Pass	3	Pass	4
Pass	Pass	Pass	4

Opening lead: Two of ♦

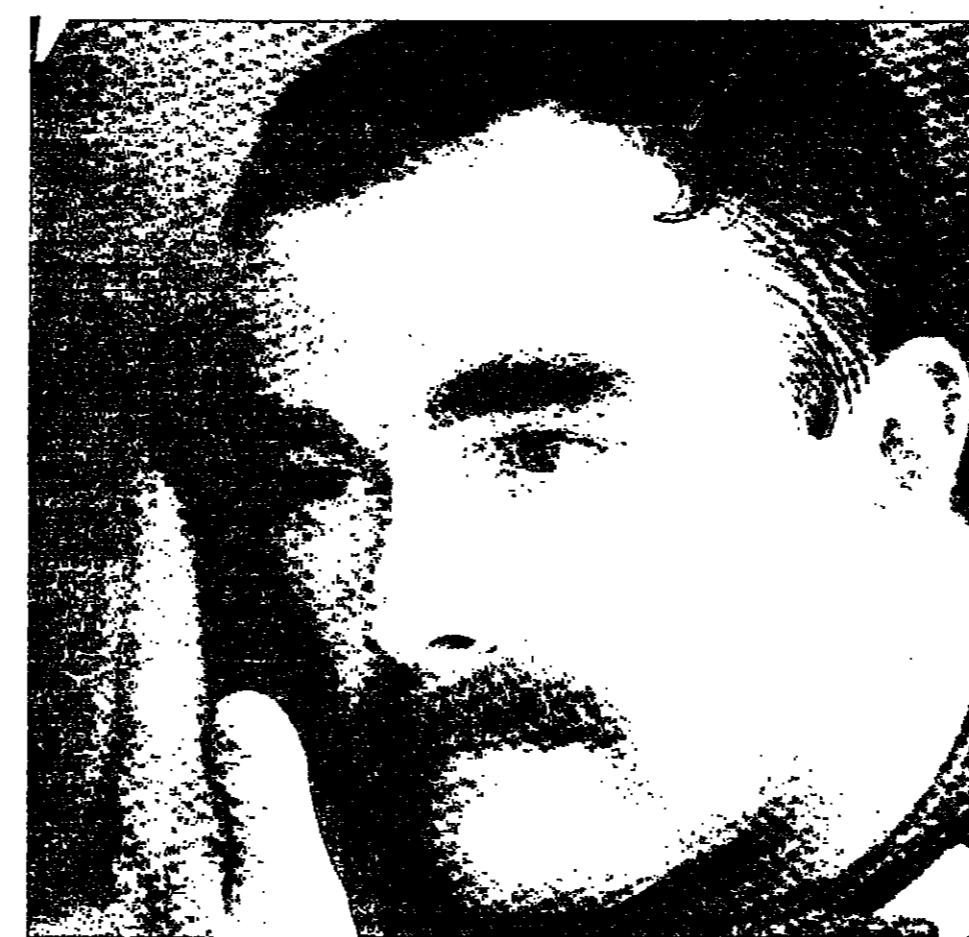
In the annual match between the English House of Commons and the House of Lords, the Commons beat the Lords to narrowly win 10-9 in favor of the latter. The event was organized by the late Rixi Markus, bridge correspondent for *The Guardian*, and is still sponsored in part by the former Labour MP for the constituency of Arundel and South Downs, Sir Alan Apter.

Mansell mystery goes on

LONDON (AFP) — The Nigel Mansell mystery deepened Monday after Williams-Renault denied they were about to meet the former Formula One world champion for secret talks.

Mansell, who quit Williams after winning the 1992 crown and defected to Indy Car racing, is currently in England and has been linked with a return to the team following the death of Ayrton Senna at Imola last month. But Williams Renault spokesman Ann Bradshaw said: "At this moment, Nigel Mansell has nothing arranged with Williams-Renault and we have no details about his trip."

Mansell, who won the Indy car crown last year in his debut season, is reportedly in England for family reasons but speculation has been growing he would contact Williams-Renault at their Didcot headquarters near Oxford for negotiations.



Judge: No shortened prison sentence for Mike Tyson

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A judge Monday refused to free former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, turning aside supporters' arguments that he has grown up since being imprisoned for the rape of a teen-age beauty pageant contestant.

Tyson, who refuses to apologize or admit he committed a crime, appeared in superior court to ask judge Patricia J. Gifford that his six-year sentence be reduced to the 26 months he has already served.

With time off for good behaviour, Tyson now is scheduled to be released in May 1995. The Indiana and U.S. supreme courts have refused to hear his appeals.

Gifford said Tyson failed to meet the legal requirement of completing an education programme of a vocational programme.

Tyson was imprisoned after he was convicted of raping a teen-age beauty pageant contestant Desiree Washington in his hotel room in 1991.

Three witnesses testified Monday that he has improved his attitude and become interested in self-improvement since entering prison.

Under cross examination by deputy prosecutor Mark Sullivan, however, each of the three said they had never heard Tyson admit in raping Washington. He has continued to all along that their sexual encounter was consensual.

"His attitude and demeanor are much better," Phemister said. He said Tyson had been withdrawn but later his attitude began "more upbeat."

Phemister testified that when Tyson learned he had



Mike Tyson

failed the exam, he "mentioned he was going to have to work harder. He was not sullen. He was not bitter. I was impressed with the way he took the news."

Camille Ewald, who had tutored Tyson in prison, said, "I see growing in Mr. Tyson and a sincere desire and love for knowledge."

Sports Illustrated has reported its June 13 issue that Tyson's lawyers had cut a deal for his early release that include a cash settlement with Ms. Washington.

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Wimbledon shuffles 'men's seeds'

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Andre Agassi and Todd Martin were the main beneficiaries Monday when the seedings were announced for Wimbledon.

Agassi, champion two years ago, was seeded no.

12 places above his world ranking. The flamboyant American has dropped in the rankings due to a long layoff at the start of the year following wrist surgery.

Martin, who beat Pete Sampras Sunday in the final of the Queen's Club tournament, was rewarded with no. 6 seeding, three spots above his world ranking.

As expected, defending champions Sampras and Stef Graf were named the top seeds for the tournament, which starts next Monday. But while Wimbledon officials stayed with the world rankings for all 16 women's seeds, they departed from the men's list to benefit players such as Agassi, Martin, Boris Becker, Jim Courier and Goran Ivanisevic at the expense of higher-ranked clay court specialists.

Wimbledon is the only one of the four Grand Slam tournaments which reserves the right to deviate from the world rankings in the seedings. The changes are designed mainly to take into consideration a players' record on grass.

The top three men's seeds went according to the rankings. Sampras, Michael Stich and Stefan Edberg. But from them on, the seedings varied.

Three time Wimbledon champion Becker's proven clay-court prowess earned him the no. 7 seed, though he is ranked 10th.

Courier, runner-up at Wimbledon last year, was seeded fifth, two places above his ranking.

Three players who are not ranked in the top 16 were seeded. Switzerland's Marc Rosset (14), Russian renegade Yevgeny Kafelnikov (15) and Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch (16).

Clay-court specialists with little success on grass were demoted in the seedings.

Sydney Olympic chief says no

SYDNEY (AFP) — Sydney's Olympic preparations suffered a setback here Tuesday after the man chosen to head the event pulled out at the last minute.

Organising committee president Gary Pemberton, expected to reveal who had been chosen as the 2000 Games chief executive, instead revealed the hitch, adding he suspected the salary on offer was too low.

Pemberton said \$295,000 was probably not enough to attract top-calibre candidates.

He revealed the chosen man had withdrawn "in favour of an alternative offer from his current employer."

Pemberton, chairman of the Australian national airline Qantas as well as the Sydney Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (SOCOG), went on a "seven-figure package" would be paid for the equivalent position in the private sector.

But the SOCOG would not be offering that much and would not ask the New South

Wales state government for permission to give more money.

The SOCOG would go back "to square one" in its bid to find a chief executive officer.

Pemberton said, adding that in the meantime he would take over the role himself.

He also argued: "Sydney is generally ahead of schedule for the staging of the games," Pemberton said in a statement.

"It is important that this setback does not affect our progress."

New South Wales state Premier John Fahey said the proposed SOCOG chief executive officer had been offered "megabucks" to stay with his current employer.

Pemberton, chairman of the Sydney Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (SOCOG), went on a "seven-figure package" would be paid for the equivalent position in the private sector.

He said: "I don't see there is any loss or any hiccup in the process."

"It does indicate of course that out there in the big wide world there is always a dollar that will buy back someone."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran to free German sentenced to death

BONN (AFP) — Iran is to free a German national who had been sentenced to death for spying for Iraq, German authorities said Tuesday as the Iranian foreign minister held talks with his German counterpart. Chancellor Helmut Kohl had appealed for clemency for 59-year-old Helmut Szimkus during a meeting Monday with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who is on a private visit to Bonn. Mr. Szimkus, a mechanical engineer arrested in 1989 and sentenced to death last year, is to be released in the next few weeks and sent back to Germany, officials said. On Tuesday, Mr. Velayati conferred with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, a former BND intelligence agency chief who had given high priority to the Szimkus affair and had even visited the prisoner in jail during a trip to Iran in 1992. The Iranian newspaper Ressalat quoted an informed source as saying the Velayati visit would help "the two countries lift some obstacles in their relations." It did not elaborate.

Sudanese rebels confirm fall of HQ

NAIROBI (AFP) — Sudanese rebels on Tuesday confirmed that government forces had overrun their administrative headquarters in the army's latest advance since it launched a major offensive six months ago. A spokesman for the southern rebels fighting the Khartoum government said the rebels had abandoned their base at Kajo Kaji, near the southern border with Uganda, without offering resistance. "We have decided to change from defence to siege in Kajo Kaji," said Steven Wondu, a spokesman for the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Khartoum announced Sunday that its forces had captured the town last week. Mr. Wondu said the rebels were trying to surround the town and cut the government's supply lines.

U.N. suspends relief flights in Angola

HARARE (AFP) — The United Nations relief agency, the World Food Programme, has cancelled all relief flights in Angola after the rebel UNITA's refusal to grant security guarantees for this week, a WFP regional information officer announced Tuesday. Mercedes Sayagues told a news conference here that the blanket suspension, the first this year, was effective from Monday because UNITA did not give it the weekly clearance to fly to the various destinations of the war-torn country. The clearance, done once a week, was supposed to have been granted Friday, so Monday, the WFP decided to cancel all the air lift operations. However, overland deliveries are not affected but these are quite restrictive and account for only one third of the agency's total food aid distribution.

Pakistan denies illegal nuclear transfer

BONN (AFP) — The Pakistani embassy Tuesday dismissed as "rubbish" allegations that some of its diplomats had organised the illegal transfer of nuclear material to Pakistan and accused India of spreading such rumors. In a broadcast aired Monday, the German public television channel ARD reported that a German company had supplied Pakistan with gas ultra-centrifugal parts used to produce enriched uranium as well as sensitive rocket equipment. It charged that the transfer had been coordinated from the Pakistani embassy here and that two Pakistani diplomats had recently been ordered to leave Germany. A ranking embassy diplomat, who asked not to be named, told AFP that it was "unthinkable" that embassy staffers would be involved in such activities which are "against diplomatic norms. " Nobody (no Pakistani diplomat) was told to go away, or declared persona non grata." In Islamabad, a foreign ministry spokesman also denied Monday that Pakistani diplomats had been expelled from Germany.

Poli shows Japanese government shaky

TOKYO (AFP) — A majority of members of parliament (MPs) would support a non-confidence motion against the government of Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, although almost as many said they would not and a large number were still undecided, a poll showed Tuesday. The poll by the Asahi Shimbun newspaper June 4-11 covering 475 of the 511 lower house members of parliament found that 179 of them would support a non-confidence motion while 173 said they opposed it and 123 were undecided. Leaders of the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) have said the party was ready to submit a no-confidence motion against Mr. Hata's minority cabinet as soon as the government's fiscal 1994 budget cleared parliament. The second largest opposition group, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), formerly a member of the coalition government, has also said it might support the motion.

Would-be members attend EU summit

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — Four countries which have negotiated to join the European Union (EU) in 1995 are to take part in an EU summit next week as though they were already members, the union said here on Tuesday. The current chairman of the EU's council of foreign ministers, Theodore Pangalos, said the leaders of Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden would join the summit on the Greek island of Corfu on Friday next week. Also invited to the summit is President Boris Yeltsin, who is scheduled to sign a partnership and cooperation accord between the EU and Russia.

Ramzi named to head radio and TV

AMMAN (I.T.) — The Council of Ministers on Tuesday announced the appointment of Ihsan Ramzi as director general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation to succeed Radi Al-Khazan who resigned earlier this year. Mr. Ramzi had served as director of programmes at Jordan Television and Radio before going to Oman where he was head of the Omani Radio's programmes department. Later he joined the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBC) and served as its director general until his appointment in Jordan.

Arafat, Rabin and Peres to meet

PARIS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat and Israel's prime minister and foreign minister, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, will meet at the Paris headquarters of UNESCO on July 6, officials at the world cultural body said on Tuesday. The three men will attend a ceremony to receive the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize for 1993, which they were awarded last September four days after signing an historic peace agreement. French President Francois Mitterrand said on Tuesday that the Israeli and Palestinian people would lose confidence in peace if their leaders did not speed up the implementation of their historic agreement. Mr. Mitterrand was speaking in the presence of the Israeli and PLO negotiators of last year's Oslo peace accord, Uri Savir and Ahmad Qourie (Abu Ala) at a ceremony in which he presented the European of the Year award to Marianne Heilberg, widow of the late Norwegian Foreign Minister Johann Jorgen Holst. Mr. Holst and his wife acted for months as secret mediators between Israel and the PLO, hosting talks at their private home and at a government residence outside Oslo to promote last September's accord.

Israeli torture goes on — rights group

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli interrogators continue to torture Palestinians on the occupied West Bank after withdrawing from most of Gaza and Jericho, a human rights group charged Wednesday.

"Both the General Security Services and the Israeli army systematically and severely abuse Palestinians who are being held for interrogation," Human Rights Watch says in a 316-page study.

"Such practices could undermine the Cairo agreement of May 4 which requires Israel and the Palestinian Authority to exercise their powers with due regard to internationally accepted norms and principles of human rights and the rule of law," the New York-based body said.

"A remarkable aspect of Israel's ill-treatment of Palestinians under interrogation is the huge number of persons who experience it," said Human Right Watch's Eric Goldstein.

"Most" of several thousands of Palestinians interrogated in the last six years suffered a combination of abuses often over three weeks or more, which are not "isolated excesses but constitute a pattern that could persist only with the acquiescence of the government."

The army is still deeply involved and its interrogators "inflict beatings routinely a combination with methods of abusive body positions and sensory deprivation."

"Israel's two main interrogation agencies in the occu-



A Palestinian policeman tries to hold back chained Palestinian protesters in Jericho demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails (AFP photo)

pied territories engage in a systematic pattern of ill-treatment and torture — according to internationally recognised definitions of the terms — when trying to extract from Palestinian security suspects confessions or information about third parties," the report said.

"Forget it. It is not true.

We are doing our best to prevent it and to behave like human beings," Major-General Ilan Biran, chief of Israel's central command, told a news briefing on the general situation in the Jericho area.

Asked on Tuesday about the report after Human Rights Watch provided advance copies to journalists, the Israeli general in charge of the West Bank denied physical abuse was routine in interrogation centres.

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